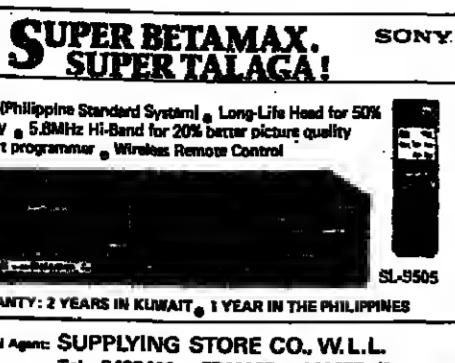


Arab Times



ARAB TIMES



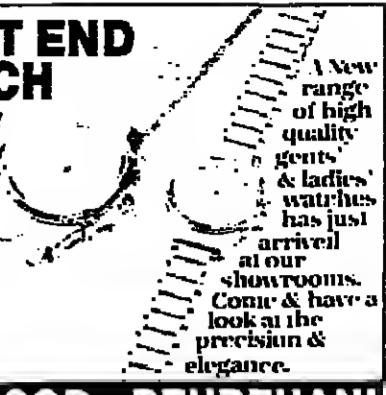
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Soviets urged not to set up Israel ties

State of limbo

The ever-increasing cases of workers' litigations due to breach of contracts, non-payment of wages, assault, and other allegations against employers have been brought to the attention of authorities at the highest level by a cross-section of workers, their embassies, and some concerned citizens.

A literate Asian technician duped by his recruitment agency in his country told the Arab Times that he is in a "state of limbo" with his sponsor and commented that: "No one in the world should turn his employee into a slave and ruin his life to gain a little bit of money — specially sponsors in an affluent state like Kuwait."

Any given a human being should send his employee back home if the latter's service did not come up to the sponsor's expectations, the expatriate added.

(See story Page 9)

Surprise visit

AMMAN, Jan 17. (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein arrived in Amman on a previously unannounced visit today and went straight into talks with King Hussein.

An official said King Hussein welcomed the Iraqi leader at Amman's military airport and the two leaders drove to the Royal Court for a meeting.

Petrified forest

RIYADH, Jan 17. (AP): A 270 million-year-old petrified forest was recently discovered in central Saudi Arabia, geologists announced yesterday.

The announcement from the faculty of geology at King Abdul-Aziz University in Riyadh said the petrified trees of the forest, covering an area of 100 square kilometres (38.6 square miles), are the oldest pines that ever appeared on the face of the earth.

Thai confesses

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17. (Kuna): A Thai who admitted stealing more than \$17 million jewellery from a Saudi Arabian royal family will be charged with theft in Bangkok, it was reported.

The report by the Bangkok Post reaching here this afternoon said the charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years jail under the Thai penal code.

Kriangkrai Techamong, 32, in confessing the crime to Thai police and the press over the weekend, said he air-freighted the loot to Bangkok and returned to pick it up.

Embassy denies

BRAZZAVILLE, Jan 17. (Reuters): Iran's embassy in Congo today denied reports that Tehran financed the bombing of a French DC-10 airliner which blew up over the Sahara desert killing all 171 people abroad.

"These reports come from the worldwide oppressors who seek to defeat the victor of the oppressed," the embassy said in a communiqué issued in Brazzaville, where the flight originated.

Guards defy ban

BEIRUT, Jan 17. (Reuters): Iranian Revolutionary Guards have defied a ban by Syria on entering Lebanon through its border and sailed in the war-torn country from Cyprus, security sources said today.

Peace move

BOGOTA, Jan 17. (Reuters): Colombia's major drug cartel, the Extradiables, said today they would end bombings and assassinations of public figures and journalists in a bid to prove they wanted peace with the government.

Arms deal

DUBAI, Jan 17. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's multi-billion pound arms deal with Britain will continue as planned and the kingdom is capable of paying its commitments, a British minister said today.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will remain slightly below normal with light northwesterly wind.
State of sea: Slight
High water: 4:00am, 5:00 pm
Low water: 10:00 am, 11:00 pm
Sunrise: 6:43 am
Sunset: 5:14 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 14°C 57°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Fajrak: 14°C 57°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 5°C 41°F
Abu Dhabi: 7°C 45°F
Fajrak: 8°C 46°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Abu Dhabi: 14°C 57°F
Fajrak: 15°C 59°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 92 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 84 per cent
Fajrak: 75 per cent

KUWAIT has urged the Soviet Union not to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity until it recognises international resolutions, particularly the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday told a Soviet delegation, currently visiting the country, that he was hopeful

that the Soviet Union would maintain its well known attitude towards the Arab cause and its policy of not establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Soviet delegation is led by parliament member and director of the institute for oriental studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Mikhail Kapitsa.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that

they discussed a host of regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations, indicating that Kapitsa officially reflects his government's opinions on these issues.

He said Kapitsa had voiced in the name of the Soviet leadership that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah would respond to the invitation for visiting the Soviet Union

as soon as possible.

Sheikh Sabah said he assured the Soviet delegation of the strong and positive relations between the two countries, existing before the perestroika.

Shifting to another issue, Sheikh Sabah said they discussed the situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, stressing the need

for bringing an end to the fighting between the Afghan people themselves.

The Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverv told Kuna that Kapitsa had explained Moscow's stand towards the Middle East question and its drive

for finding a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and assured Sheikh Sabah of the Soviet Union's

unswerving support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Zverv said the two sides shared identical viewpoints regarding the situation in the Gulf region where they stressed the need to end the state of no peace and no war through a comprehensive and lasting settlement that will realize peace and stability for Iraq and Iran and for all the countries in the region.

Violence spreads to Yerevan

Troops fan out in Azerbaijan



Soviet Muslims gather at the Soviet-Iran border along the northern bank of Aras River in Azerbaijan. (Reuters wirephoto)

If the situation demands it, more troops will be sent," Grinitskikh said.

"We are expecting (the road-blocks) and knew it wouldn't be easy," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "They have considerably reduced the level of confrontation between the two sides."

Interior Ministry spokesman Dmitri Tselenov told United Press International that Armenians attacked 13 points in the Armenian capital of Yerevan and elsewhere in the republic in desperate searches for weapons to defend themselves against Azerbaijanis.

The raiders seized a total of 452 firearms, including Makarov revolvers and small-arms ammunition, over two days, Tselenov said.

"The situation is not worsening but it is bad enough already," said Yuri Grinitskikh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

He said 11,000 troops had been sent and were taking up positions "where they are needed — where battles are going on — to separate the warring sides."

The two sides have deployed with armoured personnel carriers, surface-to-air rockets, machine-guns and even unmarked helicopters.

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INTERNATIONAL

Eight more govs resign

NEW DELHI, Jan 17. (Kuna): Governors of eight more Indian states today tendered their resignations on the advice of President R. Venkataraman.

With this the governors of 13 states have resigned their posts following the presidential directive to the governors of all states to quit in the wake of the change of government at the centre.

The governors who resigned today were, P.C. Alexander (Tamil Nadu), Mrs Ram Dulari Singh (Kerala), Khurshid Alam Khan (Goa), R.K.S. Gaodhi (Himachal Pradesh), Mohamed Usmao Arif (Uttar Pradesh), Prof Nurul Hasan (Orissa), S. A. Waqna (Mizoram) and S.K. Bhatnagar (Sikkim).

The governors of Aodra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana and Nagaland had resigned yesterday, the Jammu and Kashmir governor had sent in his resignation the day before.

The resignation of the governors evoked protests from the Congress (I) ruled state governments. Karnataka Chief Minister Veerendra Patil said in Gurgaon that as a matter of propriety the union government should have consulted the state governments before asking the governors to resign.

Puducherry Chief Minister M.O. H. Farook described the move as "unfortunate" but said he had not received any communication from the centre regarding the shifting of Puducherry Governor, Lt Gen (retd) R.S. Dayal.

India's new government yesterday ordered the mass resignation of governors, the interior Ministry said.

It is the first major purge ordered by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"The prime minister feels that some changes have to be made where there were political appointments by the then ruling party," a Home (interior) Ministry spokesman said.

Such appointments, he said, broke the tradition that governors should be "non-political figures distinguished in public life."

The spokesman said the government would probably reappoint many of the governors but president asked all of them this week to resign.

As the resignations streamed into Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's official New Delhi residence, Congress leaders were in conference debating how to react. Rajiv Gandhi had an emergency meeting with Veerakaraman last night.

Congress general-secretary V.N. Gaddi told reporters: "Those who criticised us for making political appointments now have politicised the very institution of governors."

The resignation demand was far less drastic than the purge ordered in 1977, the only other time since Indian independence in 1947 that Congress has lost a general election.

■ Indian External Affairs Minister L. K. Gujral today said that India will not militarily intervene anywhere under any circumstances.

He said the National Front government do not believe in military interventions.

Gujral said that Pakistani Foreign Minister Yakub Khan would soon be visiting New Delhi and this opportunity would be used to have detailed talks in various aspects of Indo-Pak relations, including Kashmir and that no subject would be excluded.

On the phased pullout of the Indian peace keeping force from Sri Lanka, Gujral said it would be on schedule.

Toll 23 in Dhaka ferry capsizes

DHAKA, Jan 17. (AP): Divers employed by relatives found seven more bodies, bringing to 23 the number of people known to have died when a ferry capsized and sank, a newspaper reported.

Dhaka newspapers had said between 100 and 150 people were thought to have drowned when the ferry sank on Sunday night. The actual toll probably will never be known, since bodies are usually washed downstream.

About 80 passengers are listed as missing. Survivors of ferry accidents, which are common in Bangladesh, often swim ashore and walk away without informing the authorities.

The Bangladesh Times, a government-owned English-language daily newspaper, said divers found seven bodies yesterday after a daylong search.

**Delhi demonstration**

Women supporters of India's opposition Congress Party tried to break through police cordon during a protest outside Prime Minister V.P. Singh's residence in New Delhi. About 200 women demonstrated against government inaction against violence in the southern state of Punjab and Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

Indians acquitted

Fiji arms case

SUVA, Fiji, Jan 17. (AP): The High Court today dismissed charges against 18 Indians accused of smuggling enough arms and ammunition to start "a small war" in Fiji.

The group was arrested after tons of arms, including automatic weapons, grenades and rocket launchers, were intercepted in Australia en route to the South Pacific nation. There were two successful coups in Fiji in 1987.

Fiji has a population of about 715,000, of which native Fijians comprise 47 per cent. Indians, descendants of British imported sugar plantation labour in the 19th century, make up 49 per

cent of the population. Europeans, Chinese and others make up the rest.

The 18 Indian defendants had pleaded guilty to charges of smuggling arms following their arrest 18 months ago, but the judge said he was satisfied most of the men were farmers, not criminals.

They were each ordered to pay the equivalent of \$35 court costs and then ordered released from custody.

The 18 originally denied charges against them, but on Monday changed their pleas to guilty following private talks among defense and prosecution lawyers.

New policy

Lanka to boost ME missions

COLOMBO, Jan 17. (Kuna): Sri Lanka is to strengthen its diplomatic missions in the Middle East as part of the reorganisation programme undertaken by the Foreign Ministry, a statement said.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said, a new mission is to be established in Iran and the Lankan mission in Oman is to be upgraded.

Under the new programme initiated on the directive of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a new set-up, called umbrella organisation, are to be established in selected capitals, the statement said. Two such organisations will be set up in Kuwait and Cairo, it said.

Key witness absent

Enrile defends

MANILA, Jan 17. (UPI): Lawyers for opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile presented evidence today countering charges that ex-army Col. Gregorio Honasan and some 100 rebel soldiers were at Enrile's house during last month's bloody coup attempt.

The witnesses are waiters of the five-star Silahot hotel, which catered the mass.

The statement of his acolyte, Antonio Adriano, was presented by the battery of prominent lawyers defending Enrile, the former defence minister who led the 1986 military revolt that ousted the late 20-year ruler Ferdinand Marcos and catapulted Aquino to power.

Enrile, who served as Aquino's defence secretary after the 1986 revolt, was fired after his aides, including Honasan, were implicated in an aborted coup attempt against Aquino nine months after he assumed office.

Hoasan, who also led the Aug. 28, 1987, bloody coup attempt, is at large. The military has put up a reward of 1 million pesos (\$50,000) for his capture.

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Contact your nearest Yamaichi office, worldwide, for more information.

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Demolishing Noriega

A workmen hammers at the emblem of Manuel Noriega's cracktroop unit, the Mechos del Monte, as work continued on the demolition of his former HQ, Commandancia here. (Reuter wirephoto)

Peru envoy asked to quit Panama angry

LIMA, Jan 17, (AP): Peru has protested Panama's decision to expel its chargé d'affaires, but has retracted its earlier order for all Panamanian diplomats to leave Peru.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said in a communiqué that its embassy in Panama City would remain under the direction of a first secretary to ensure the safety of 12 Panamanians who sought refuge in the Peruvian ambassador's residence last week.

However, he said that Peru will reduce its diplomatic staff by an unspecified number of people.

Panamanians inside the residence include Gonzalo Gonzales, a former chief of security for ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega. Gonzales is wanted by US invasion forces in Panama.

Earlier Tuesday, Larco Cox said that the Peruvian government was giving all Panamanian diplomats 72 hours to leave Peru, after which they "will lose all their diplomatic rights and immunity."

His subsequent communiqué did not explain the change in Peru's position.

If Peru had expelled all of Panama's diplomats, Panama probably would have reciprocated — leaving the

Verdict against drug kingpin

Life without parole

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17, (AP): A federal judge sentenced a Honduran drug kingpin to life in prison without possibility of parole Tuesday, ending one of the largest cocaine trafficking cases in Los Angeles.

US district judge Pamela Rymer sentenced Juan Ramon Mata Ballesteros after he was convicted in September of seven criminal counts, including conspiracy, possession and distribution of narcotics and running a criminal enterprise.

Prosecutors said Mata was head of a kilogramme of cocaine cartel based in Cali, Colombia, that smuggled thousands of kilograms of cocaine into Mexico.

Mata moved almost 600 pounds (275 kgs) of cocaine with a street value of more than \$73 million through Arizona and southern California, prosecutors said.

In a pre-sentencing memorandum filed last month, assistant US attorney Manuel Medina described Mata as "perhaps the most significant trafficker in custody in the world to date."

The American School — Kuwait Important Announcement

1. Re-enrollment for returning students for the 1990-91 academic year will take place between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

2. Siblings of returning students may be enrolled for the 1990-91 academic year with priority over other new students between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

3. New student applications for the 1990-91 year are now being accepted, but decisions for acceptance will be taken after February 15, 1990.

The school will be unable to guarantee places for its current students, and priority status for the siblings of current students who enroll after February 15, 1990.

Swiss to hand Noriega records

BERNE, Jan 17, (Agencies): Switzerland will release details of bank accounts linked to former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega to help Washington press its drug-trafficking charges, the Justice Ministry said.

Castulovich said the decision did not signify a break in diplomatic relations.

"The diplomatic missions are being maintained. They are not closing," he said.

Relations between Panama and Peru have been strained since US forces invaded Panama on Dec 20 to overthrow and capture Noriega, who was sought in the United States on drug trafficking charges.

President Alan Garcia of Peru has been one of the strongest critics of the US invasion, and Larco Cox at one point called Endara a "Judas" for allowing US military forces to install him in the presidency.

In Miami, a lawyer for Noriega said yesterday he would try to force key prosecution witnesses to testify during a Jan 26 bond hearing in hopes of discrediting the government's case.

In a change of strategy, Miami lawyer Steven Kollin said the defense team would fight during the hearing to persuade a federal judge to release Noriega from US custody.

The government rarely puts forth witnesses at pre-trial hearings, and the defense is certain to face resistance.

Prosecutors plan to argue that Noriega should remain in jail awaiting his trial on drug trafficking charges.

Legal experts note that major drug suspects are seldom granted bail and say Noriega has virtually no chance of winning his freedom.

Noriega has been held in a cell beneath the federal courthouse since arriving in Florida after surrendering to US troops in Panama on Jan 3. He is charged with aiding Colombian drug traffickers and pocketing \$4.6 million in bribes.

A US prosecutor said Noriega and a co-defendant smuggled illegal aliens into the United States.

The accusations came during a bond hearing for a minor Noriega drug conspiracy co-defendant, Eduardo Pardo, 44, a Panamanian pilot who alleged flew cocaine plane from Florida to his homeland.

"There is no pardon and there will be no pardon for drug traffickers because it is not provided for in any law," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters yesterday.

"The government can do nothing different than comply with the constitution and the laws of the republic," he said.

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South Africa is at a turning point: Sisulu

ANC calls for intensification of struggle

LUSAKA, Jan 17, (Agencies): African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu called yesterday for intensification of the fight against apartheid, although he also said racial tensions are easing and South Africa is at turning point.

Sisulu told about 1,000 exiled ANC members that they should work toward negotiations with the South African government, but pursue their armed struggle to maintain pressure for rapid change of laws mandating racial segregation.

"The political struggle and the armed struggle go side by side," he said.

Sisulu and seven ANC colleagues, all of whom served lengthy prison terms in South Africa, are on a weeklong visit to Lusaka, the guerrilla

movement's exile headquarters. They came to help co-ordinate ANC strategy in the face of a rapidly changing political climate in South Africa.

The 60- and 70-year-old men received a rousing welcome from the ANC members who chanted, sang freedom songs and saluted with clenched fists. The hall was draped in the green, black and gold banners of the ANC and many members wore ANC scarves around their suit collars.

Since South African President F.W. de Klerk assumed power in August, he has allowed opposition groups to protest openly and has urged negotiations on a new constitution that would include a political voice for the black majority.



Renoir up for auction

The widow of investor-publisher John Hay Whitney will offer a Renoir from the couple's collection for sale for an estimated \$40 to \$50 million, Sotheby's auction house said Tuesday.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1876 work, acclaimed for its light, shadow and movement, depicts the Moulin de la Galette, a French outdoor dance hall in Montmartre frequented by avant-garde writers, painters and actors.

It shows a model named Estelle sitting at a table with three of Renoir's friends, including biographer Georges Rivière, who later described the painting as "a page of history, a precious moment of Paris life depicted with rigorous examination."

The painting was owned for 60 years by Whitney and his wife, Betsy Cushing Whitney. (Reuter wirephoto)

Zoghby explained, "thanks to an agreement between the census Bureau and AAII, a category will be derived from any and all codes that are affiliated with the Arabic-speaking world."

Zoghby said that this means that while individuals may self-identify themselves as Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Arab or Arab-American, these are not separate nationalities but rather are grouped into a generic category called Arab for purposes of the official reports issued by the Census Bureau.

This is an important change from 1980 when the first data on ancestry was published. Then, only the largest ancestry group (most European) were able to be specified in official reports with breakdowns by city, congressional district, county etc.

Because the Arabic-speaking ancestors individually are relatively small, they were not specified in the publications that provide the most interesting demographic analysis.

According to Zoghby, the census results are useful to the Arab-American community in at least four ways:

First, the ancestry question provides Arab-Americans with the only official count of the Arab-American population.

Second, the census tracks languages spoken in the home, which can provide valuable information about what percentage of Arab-Americans speak Arabic and where.

Third, important data on immigration history and citizenship are available through the census, helping in the study of the breakdown of the community by citizenship status, place of birth, and length of time in the US.

Baby boom after Hugo

GASTONIA, North Carolina, Jan 17, (AP): Gaston County is due for a baby boom in June and early July — about nine months after Hurricane Hugo hit, doctors say.

The storm knocked out power and essentially shut down the county when it struck in September.

"Any time there is a natural disaster or snowstorm or anything that keeps people in their homes, this happens," said Deborah Hudson, business manager for Gaston Gynecology and Obstetrics, one of two prenatal centres in the county.

By mid-January, the centre already surpassed the number of patients that showed up in December.

gilio Barco's closest aide, German Monroy.

A senior army general said on Tuesday that the drug lords in Medellin, one of the centres of cocaine trafficking, were drawing up a response to the document.

Citing intelligence reports, General Harold Bedoya, head of Medellin's fourth brigade, said the traffickers were drawing up an offer to halt drug exports and free captives in return for a pardon.

In other developments, police dismantled a car bomb made up of half a ton of dynamite.



Soldiers appear in court

Jesuits massacre case

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 17, (AP): An army colonel, three lieutenants and four soldiers implicated in the massacre of six Roman Catholic priests were brought before a civilian judge yesterday to make statements about the slayings.

Col. Guillermo Benavides arrived at the office of 4th penal court Judge Ricardo Zamora in dress uniform and surrounded by police. He made no comment to reporters, who were kept several yards (metres) away.

The lieutenants, two sergeants, a corporal and a private, also implicated in the Nov 16 massacre, arrived shortly afterward. A ninth soldier, who allegedly took part in the slayings deserted last month and is a fugitive.

Zamora has 72 hours to decide if there is enough evidence to charge the men and hold them for trial.

Benavides is led into the county house to give his formal declaration. (Reuter wirephoto)

Colombian government rejects pardon proposal for drug lords as violence rages on

BOGOTA, Jan 17, (Reuter): The Colombian government has rejected a suggestion that it grant a pardon for drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports.

"There is no pardon and there will be no pardon for drug traffickers because it is not provided for in any law," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters yesterday.

"The government can do nothing different than comply with the constitution and the laws of the republic," he said.

Lemos Simmonds told reporters that by law the

government could only pardon guerrillas laying down their arms, not drug traffickers.

His statement was in response to a proposal on Monday by the Roman Catholic church and others for some leniency for the drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports and the freeing of hostages.

The proposal was signed by Cardinal Mario Revollo and two ex-presidents, one of them the head of the ruling Liberal Party.

It was also supported by other political leaders, including the head of the Conservative Party, the major opposition party, and the leader of the main

leftist party, the Patriotic Union.

It appeared to indicate that a growing number of politicians believed the five-month drug war was exacting too high a price.

About 193 people have been killed, more than 1,000 people have been injured and millions of dollars of property destroyed in bombings and other attacks since the traffickers declared war on the government in August.

Officials say that in recent months that cartel leaders have also abducted about 20 wealthy Colombians, including the son of President Vir-

gilio Barco's closest aide, German Monroy.

A senior army general said on Tuesday that the drug lords in Medellin, one of the centres of cocaine trafficking, were drawing up a response to the document.

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In other developments, police dismantled a car bomb made up of half a ton of dynamite.

NEW YORK: Guitars are still thrashed and arenas trashed, but one thing has changed on Motley Crue's latest tour: the heavy metal band's remember what they do.

"We only remember bits of past tour," lead singer Vince Neil said in this week's People magazine.

"Booze, drugs, and more drugs left the band members' memories as fuzzy as their guitar sound, until bassist Nikki Sixx nearly died of a heroin overdose in 1987."

The entire Crue checked into a drug rehabilitation programme, and now a drug counsellor follows them around on tour to help them stay on the wagon, the magazine said.

But concertgoers have not yet mistaken the group for advocates of temperance.

"We don't just play rock and roll, we live it," Sixx said. "We go on tour and get broken bones, diseases, the crowd leaves bloody. It's more like going to war." (AP)

NEW YORK: Jason Connery, son of the consummate James Bond, is set to star in a television movie as Ian Fleming, the author and creator of agent 007.

"Freddy would be in it," said 007.

"The thing is that I'm compared continually to my father — so I thought, if it's a good script, just do it," he said. "People will say what



Partially frozen

Rescue workers carry five-year-old George Sader after he was pulled from a partially frozen pond in Centerville, Va. on Jan 15. The boy was trapped under the ice for 40 minutes before being rescued. He was taken to hospital where he was placed on a heart-lung machine after his temperature had dropped to normal. (Reuters wirephoto)

they want to anyway, so I didn't feel any pressure."

The younger Connery says his famous father has not intruded in his acting career.

LOS ANGELES: Troy Hayden, teenage son of actress Jane Fonda and her former husband Tom Hayden, was arrested early Monday after police caught a group of boys spray-painting graffiti at a parking lot, authorities said.

"I can't give out his name since he's a juvenile," said Sergeant Rick Walker. "He indicates he's the son of Jane Fonda. We've verified it."

The 16-year-old, Ms Fonda's only son, was arrested about 1:30 am near the San Diego Freeway, Walker said.

"He and seven other young gentlemen were applying graffiti to phone booths and posts at a park-and-ride," Walker said. The sergeant did not know what the graffiti said.

The boy was booked for investigation of vandalism and breaking a 10 pm curfew, both misdemeanour violations.

Ms Fonda and Hayden, a long-time activist and Democratic member of the California assembly, dissolved their marriage last year.

Chennai, 17 Jan: The 17th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened here on Saturday with a special screening of the Indian film "Khalaf Video Center" at the Safat Post Office in Mysore.

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APPROVAL NO. 28

Legal battle over Byzantine icons

CHICAGO, Jan 17, (AP): The Greek Orthodox Church and the government of Cyprus forfeited its right to historic religious mosaics when they failed to track down the thief who sold them to an Indiana art dealer, an attorney said yesterday.

The argument was made before the 7th circuit court of appeals, which has been asked to overturn a lower court order that art dealer Peg Goldberg return the 6th century Byzantine mosaic fragments to the Greek Orthodox

Church of Cyprus.

The mosaics, among only a handful of Byzantine icons surviving from the first centuries of Christianity, are in a vault in Indianapolis pending the appeals court's ruling.

Mr. Goldberg's attorney, Joe C. Emerson, told the three-judge panel that US district Judge James E. Noland erred last summer in his ruling that the suburban Indianapolis art dealer had not obtained legal title when she purchased the four fragments from a Turk, now believed to

have stolen them.

Emerson argued in Tuesday's appeal, as he had done in the lower court trial, that Indiana's six-year statute of limitations barred the Cypriot church and the Republic of Cyprus from suing to recover the artifacts.

"...If you have been hurt, you've got six years to find out who did it to you," Emerson said. "Six years was plenty of time for Cyprus to have recovered the mosaics."

But Thomas R. Kline, attorney for the Cypriot church and the Republic of Cyprus said, "these holy mosaics were stolen from the Church of Cyprus and they must be returned to the Church of Cyprus because under Indiana law a thief cannot pass good title," he said.

Emerson told the court that the Cypriots discovered the mosaics missing in 1979, and had until 1985 under the statute of limitations to recover them. He said they were not "diligent" in pursuing the stolen items.

Bull terriers eat off lady's arms

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17, (AP): Two pit bull terriers mauled a 70-year-old woman, gnawing the flesh off her arms in a 30-minute attack at her grandson's house, officials said.

"She has puncture wounds on most of her torso and all the flesh had been eaten off both arms from the wrist to the shoulder," said police Lt. Alan Kerstein.

Margie Lilly of San Diego was in critical condition at County-USC medical centre. Surgeons amputated her left arm and worked on her right arm in six hours of surgery, said hospital spokeswoman Adelaida de la Cerna.

He and seven other young gentlemen were applying graffiti to phone booths and posts at a park-and-ride," Walker said. The sergeant did not know what the graffiti said.

The boy was booked for investigation of vandalism and breaking a 10 pm curfew, both misdemeanour violations.

Ms Fonda and Hayden, a long-time activist and Democratic member of the California assembly, dissolved their marriage last year.

Mrs. Lilly was visiting her 34-year-old grandson, Clarence Hubbard, at his Los Angeles home, and knew the 14-month-old pit bulls, which weighed 45 to 50 pounds (20 to 23 kgs), said Kerstein.

The dogs were taken to the city animal shelter, Kerstein said he indicated he wanted them destroyed.

Attacked

Hubbard returned to the house Tuesday and found his grandmother on the floor, Kerstein said. "Both dogs were sitting close by in the corner of the room."

Mrs. Lilly, who was conscious, told officers the dogs became excited and attacked while she was pouring food for them from a large bag. The woman, who is only 4 feet, 11 inches (150 cms) tall and weighs 130 pounds (59 kgs), was no match for the frenzied animals.

The dogs were taken to the city animal shelter, Kerstein said he indicated he wanted them destroyed.

Syndrome X mislabelled as neurotic or hysterical

Chest pain artery disorder sign

SAN ANTONIO, Jan 17, (AP): Tens of thousands of women in the United States diagnosed each year with chest pain and no signs of heart disease may be suffering from a treatable disorder of the small arteries, a researcher said yesterday.

Many of these women, who often experience intense pain, are being treated for psychiatric disorders because no physical symptoms can be found with conventional tests, said Dr Richard Cannon of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

"Many have been mislabelled as neurotic or hysterical women," Cannon said. "They truly have a pain syndrome."

Among their symptoms is a condition Cannon calls "sensitive heart," in which they experience sharp pain when test probes are threaded into arteries near their hearts.

Ordinarily such probes produce no pain,

Cannon said. He described his research at the American Heart Association's annual science writers' forum.

His studies have shown that many of the patients are suffering from a disorder he calls microvascular angina, in which blood flow may be blocked in very tiny arteries that nourish the heart.

The arteries are too small to show up on angiograms, in which dye is injected into the larger coronary arteries to look for blockages, he said. The condition has sometimes been called "Syndrome X," because its cause was unknown.

Cannon said that about 100,000 people in the United States each year have chest pain, or angina, with no evidence of blockage of coronary arteries. Most are women.

The condition may be common in men, too, but it occurs in middle age and later when

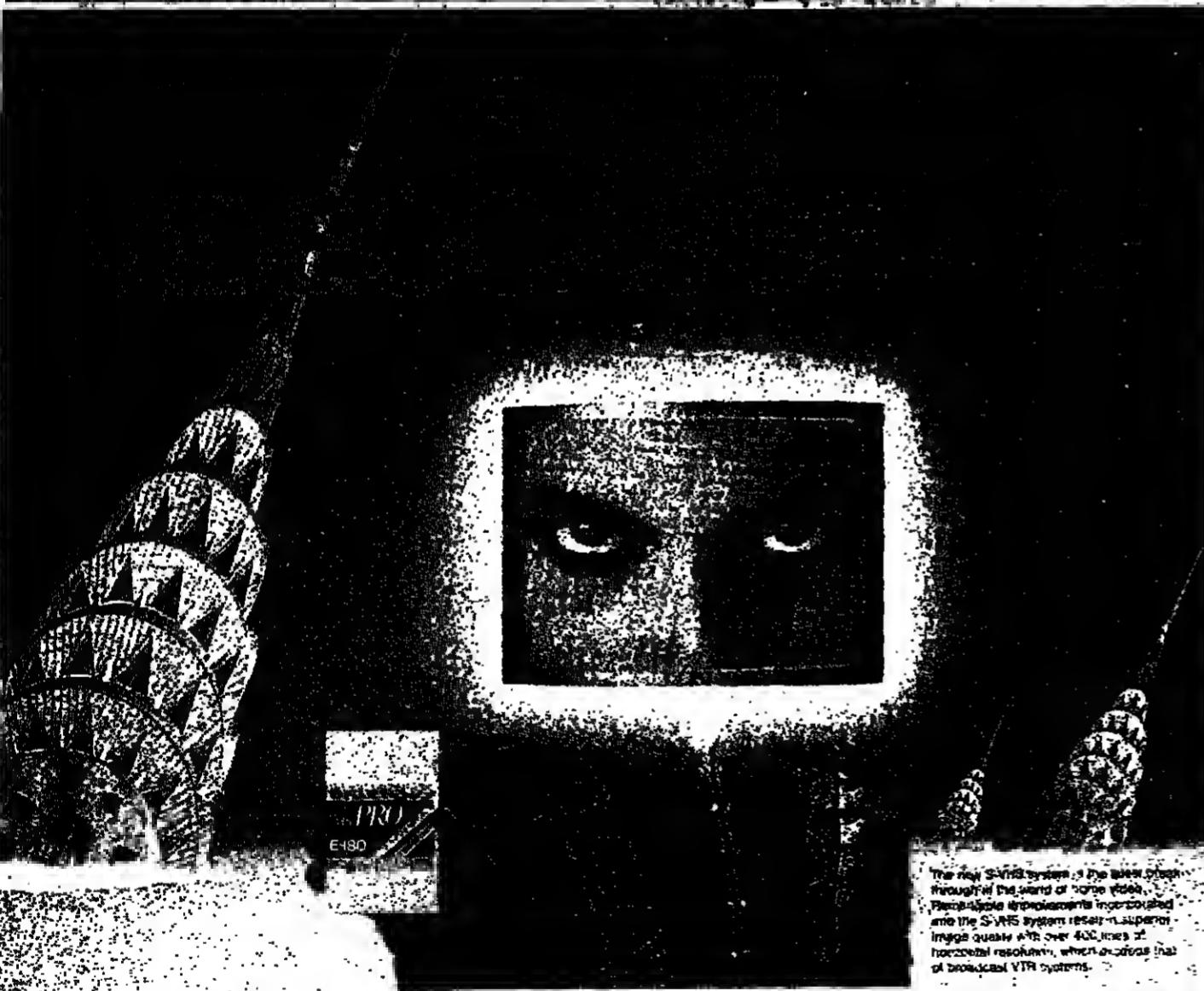
many men already have developed coronary artery blockages. Those blockages lead to underlying microvascular angina, Cannon said.

A variety of treatments exist to relieve the pain, Cannon said. The treatments include many of the standard heart drugs.

The patients are identified in part because they have reduced flow of blood to the heart, Cannon said.

Studies have shown that the patients appear to have a disorder of the so-called "smooth muscle" in arteries. The smooth muscle causes arteries to tighten and relax as they help regulate blood pressure and blood flow.

The patients are unusually sensitive to drugs that constrict the blood vessels, and somewhat insensitive to drugs that relax blood vessels, Cannon said.



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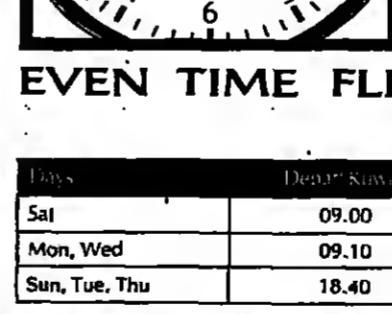
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TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



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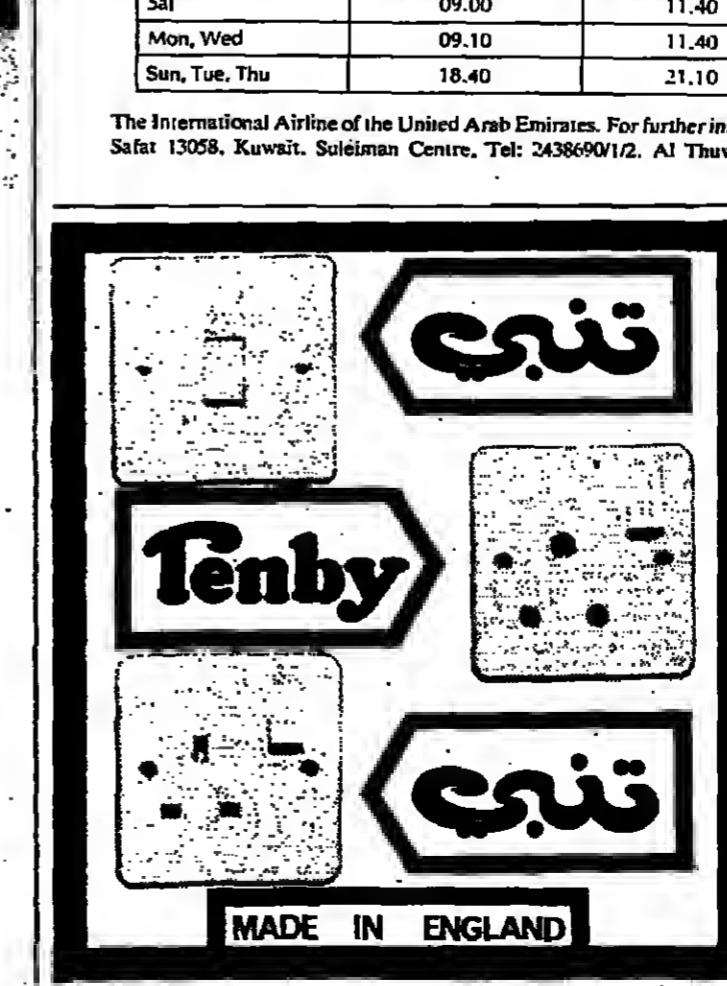


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MADE IN ENGLAND

Hou fills gap left by China dissidents

BEIJING, Jan 17, (AP): With China's best-known dissidents jailed, exiled or in hiding, a popular folk singer is trying to fill the void with protest songs and calls for democracy.

"You could say I'm the world's stupidest, most amateur dissident," Hou Dejian said, laughing and shaking his head in mock self-ridicule during a recent interview.

"I'm not a politician. I had friends who were dissidents, but... I'm a professional musician," he said, with elaborate emphasis. "But right now, I'm trying to figure out how to become a passive dissident."

Hou, 33, is no ordinary mainland musician: He is the Taiwanese-born son of a nationalist soldier who fought against the communists. Seeking his roots, Hou visited the communist mainland as an established star in 1983 and decided to stay.

The darling of the government, he was allowed to keep living like a star, with two homes and two cars, one a maroon Mercedes-Benz.

The skinny, chain-smoking Hou, usually clad in black leather jacket and boots, is famous among Chinese on the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong for his Bob Dylan-influenced songs about social concerns, such as the endangered pandas, and about the worries of youth.

Strike

He became known to Westerners in the final days of China's student democracy movement last spring, when he and three friends began a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square to protest martial law. Many students were already leaving the square out of fear, and the hunger strike infused the movement with new spirit.

Less than 48 hours later on June 4, when tanks poised on the square's edge, Hou negotiated with the army to allow the remaining students to retreat peacefully, possibly saving hundreds of lives.

Now, he is again trying to keep the spirit of democracy alive, taking advantage of his relative freedom as a defector.

"I can say more than ordinary Chinese," Hou said. So he has begun "making a little noise," giving interviews to foreign journalists and singing for them the half-dozen songs he has written about the democracy movement — songs he knows no mainland company can record now.

"Friends who love freedom, spread our wings," one ballad goes. "Listen carefully, no one can again. Open your eyes, no one can twist the truth again."

Hou has not worked out any philosophy of government or theories about the relative merits of communism and capitalism. "I'm not a political scientist. I say, ask all the Chinese people and then decide."

Alternative

All he wants is provide an alternative to the Communist Party voice that has filled the airwaves and newspapers since June with relentless condemnation of the democracy movement.

"Because you can't hear other voices that doesn't mean there's stability," he said, picking words carefully while he picked out chords on his electric guitar.

"We have an ancient tyrant culture. A real change would mean changing the slaves, not changing the tyrant. Although it's been slow, there is change. Most people in Beijing took part in the movement and... they are not as afraid as before."

Hou said the movement wiped away his feeling of being an outsider on the mainland.

That is why during the summer, when he hid from police for more than two months in the Australian embassy in Beijing, he did not apply for asylum. He came out Aug 15, as soon as the Foreign Ministry promised he would not be arrested or deported.

Deal

Some Chinese suspected a deal when he told government television two days later that he did not see anyone killed in Tiananmen Square during the June 3-4 army attack.

Authorities insist no one died in the square, while acknowledging about 300 deaths elsewhere in the city. Many Chinese say the toll was much higher, and Western security sources say the toll may have been 3,000.

But Hou said he made no deal. "I can only say I didn't see anyone die. That doesn't prove no one died."

Two of the three friends who went on hunger strike with Hou remain jailed. One was freed in December.

Hou was jailed by police for a while, and has not been allowed so far to travel inside China or to Australia, where his wife, pop singer Cheng Lin, fled in June.

Suu Kyi barred from Burmese polls

Crowds protest Election Commission's decision

RANGOON, Jan 17, (UPI): The Rangoon Election Commission has decided to bar arrested opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running for parliament in general elections, sparking brief protests in the capital, the panel announced today.

Armed troops guarded the capital today after Suu Kyi was barred from running in polls, Western diplomats said.

A Western diplomat reached by telephone from Bangkok said large numbers of soldiers who had entered the capital in trucks the previous day were guarding areas including City Hall, where the election commission has offices.

The Rangoon division decision reverses a township level commission's ruling a week ago that would have allowed the charismatic Aung San Suu Kyi, the 44-year-old daughter of Burmese independence hero Gen. Aung San, to run for Parliament in the general

elections scheduled for May 27.

The commission's decision has raised doubts that the military government will keep its promise to hold free and fair multi-party elections, said an unnamed diplomat contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

The township level decision was appealed by the National Unity Party, which was formed by the military and ruled Burma from 1962 to 1988. The military seized direct power in Sept 1988 from the faltering one-party government amid nationwide demonstrations demanding democracy.

The military crushed the protests, killing at least 500 people according to a military count. Diplomats say more than 1,000 people were killed.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since July 20 for criticising the military.

The division level commission agreed with the National Unity Party appeal that Aung

Suu Kyi had given up her right to run for Parliament by marrying a Briton and residing in Britain.

It also charged that she and her party, the National League for Democracy, violated election laws by maintaining links with underground insurgent groups.

A spokesman for the League said the division-level decision would be appealed to the Central Election Commission, whose decision is final.

A crowd gathered at the city hall prior to the latest ruling, witnesses said. Troops and police guarding the city hall quickly dispersed the crowd and restored order, they said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Additional troops and armed police moved into the city centre to guard key points and main streets.

In campaigns around the country, Aung San Suu Kyi displayed growing popularity.



Suu Kyi addressing a meeting before her arrest in July 1989. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

All you need is love: The Beatles told the world that all you need is love, but Paul McCartney says he and songwriting partner John Lennon took a much more mercenary view when they composed their classic '60s song.

"Somebody said to me, 'the Beatles were anti-American.' That's a huge myth," McCartney says in the Feb 2 issue of Rolling Stone magazine. "John and I literally used to sit down and say, 'now let's write a swimming pool.'

McCartney, 47, is currently in the middle of his first tour since 1975. But he says the "Flowers in the Dirt" shows are not an attempt to claim the Beatles legacy for himself. (AP) .



La Croix collection

Designer Christian La Croix puts finishing touches to his high fashion collection which will be presented during the spring-summer Paris fashion shows on Jan 21. (Reuter wirephoto)

Quake jolts Australia: An earthquake of 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted the remote state of Western Australia on Wednesday, less than one month after a tremor shook the eastern seaboard, killing 12 people in the city of Newcastle.

Officials said Wednesday's quake had the same strength as the one that hit Dec 28 in Australia's first fatal earthquake, Newcastle, an industrial centre and the country's sixth largest city with 900,000 people, is still assessing the damage.

Hundreds of buildings in the city centre suffered structural damage from the quake. (AP)

3 Lockheed employees detained: Three employees of a US aeronautics company have been detained in Chad during what company officials called a "misunderstanding" with the government.

The three men are technical representatives sent to look after some C-130 Hercules airplanes sold to Chad by Lockheed Aeronautical System-Georgia, company spokesman Dick Martin said Tuesday night.

Martin said Lockheed agreed to set up an office in Chad for one year after the sale of the aircraft so company technicians could help maintain the planes and explain their use. (AP)

1-year prison term for libel: A woman writer has been sentenced to one year in prison in China's first case of a writer jailed for libel, an official daily said Wednesday.

The China Daily said Tang Min, 34, received the one-year prison term and was fined 2,000 yuan (\$425 US) by a court in the southeastern city of Xiamen for defaming a person who appears in a 1986 book. (AP)

Stoltenberg elected: Thorvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations, has started work as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, heading an agency responsible for 15 million refugees world-wide, a UNHCR spokesman said Tuesday.

Raymond Hall said Stoltenberg arrived in Geneva on Monday. He was elected for a four-year term by the UN General Assembly on Nov 20 to replace Jean-Pierre Hocke, who resigned following allegations he had misused funds.

The 58-year-old Norwegian takes over as head of the agency at a time when it is struggling with an unprecedented financial crisis and over increasing number of refugees. (AP) .

10 Indonesians die: Ten Indonesians were killed and 31 others hospitalised Tuesday in a highway accident as they were on their way to work at a Sabah forest industries plantation near Sipitang, 1,460 kilometres (910 miles) east of the capital.

Assistant superintendent of police Onong Muda told the national news agency Bernama in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state, that one worker died at the Beaufort district hospital and the rest died at the scene. (AP)

China to help separated couples: China plans to amend its unpopular practice of forcing some married couples to live and work in different cities, an official daily said Wednesday.

The China Daily said the state council, China's cabinet, has worked out a policy to help the 300,000 state-employed couples now living apart get back together.

Senior intellectuals will be given priority for reunions between married persons, it said. People with doctorates or who are involved in high technology jobs will automatically qualify for relocation. (AP)

Rebels kill 11 in Bougainville

PORT MORESBY, Australia: Jan 17, (AP): Six people died and 11 were wounded when separatist rebels attacked a jail on the troubled, copper-rich island of Bougainville.

Authorities said it was one of the fiercest gunbattles in 14 months of unrest.

State of emergency controller, Police Commissioner Paul Tobian said between 70 and 100 militants armed with shotguns descended on Kaviria jail just north of the provincial capital Arawa before dawn.

Australian Associated Press said four warden, a civilian and a child died. The wounded included eight wardens and three prisoners. Most of the jail was destroyed. There was no official explanation for why the jail was attacked.

Protester arrested

A Greenpeace protestor is arrested on the Central Electricity Generating Board's dump ship MVA after Greenpeace activists tried to stop the ship from dumping its cargo of waste from the electricity industry. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hong Kong top officials will not have right to live abroad: Beijing

HONG KONG, Jan 17, (AP): China today further hardened its position toward Hong Kong by deciding that top officials in the territory's post-1997 government would not have the right to live abroad.

Hong Kong government radio said.

A top Chinese official also announced that Hong Kong residents with British passports would not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory after it returns to Chinese rule in seven years.

Last month, China outlawed "subversive groups" from operating in the territory after 1997.

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PORT MORESBY, Australia: Jan 17, (AP): Six people died and 11 were wounded when separatist rebels attacked a jail on the troubled, copper-rich island of Bougainville.

Authorities said it was one of the fiercest gunbattles in 14 months of unrest.

State of emergency controller, Police Commissioner Paul Tobian said between 70 and 100 militants armed with shotguns descended on Kaviria jail just north of the provincial capital Arawa before dawn.

Australian Associated Press said four warden, a civilian and a child died. The wounded included eight wardens and three prisoners. Most of the jail was destroyed. There was no official explanation for why the jail was attacked.

Protester arrested

A Greenpeace protestor is arrested on the Central Electricity Generating Board's dump ship MVA after Greenpeace activists tried to stop the ship from dumping its cargo of waste from the electricity industry. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hong Kong top officials will not have right to live abroad: Beijing

HONG KONG, Jan 17, (AP): China today further hardened its position toward Hong Kong by deciding that top officials in the territory's post-1997 government would not have the right to live abroad.

Hong Kong government radio said.

A top Chinese official also announced that Hong Kong residents with British passports would not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory after it returns to Chinese rule in seven years.

Last month, China outlawed "subversive groups" from operating in the territory after 1997.

Accord on Cambodia

Big five to push truce, free polls

PARIS, Jan 17, (AP): The permanent members of the UN Security Council have agreed to move quickly to seek a ceasefire and free elections in Cambodia under UN administration.

The five countries concluded two days of meetings last night by setting out a 16-point summary of principles focused on "an enhanced UN role" in bringing peace to Cambodia.

Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are to meet again in New York in about two weeks, then again in late February in Paris to push the peace programme ahead as quickly as possible.

"We're at least going to make a strong try at it," said a senior US official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity. "We're not talking about a process that would take several years, but it's clear it will take several months."

The five countries said a special representative of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be in charge of United Nations activities in Cambodia during an unspecified transition period leading to elections.

They called for "an effective UN presence" to assure internal security, apparently a reference to a peacekeeping force. It says the elections "must be conducted under direct, UN administration" that would "assure a neutral political environment in which no party would be advantaged."

"An enduring peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive political settlement, including the verified withdrawal of foreign forces, a ceasefire and the cessation of outside military assistance," the statement said.

"The goal should be self-determination for the Cambodian people through free, fair and democratic elections."

Points set out in the statement do not deal with some of the most difficult issues — such as whether to dissolve the existing administration of Premier Hun Sen's Vietnamese-backed government or what to do about Cambodia's United Nations seat, currently held by the three-party guerrilla coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The statement does not even refer directly to Hun Sen, Sihanouk or the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's brutal masters from 1975 to 1978 who are

Gang fight in HK camps

HONG KONG, Jan 17. (Reuters): A Vietnamese man has been killed in a gang fight in the latest outbreak of violence at Hong Kong's crowded refugee camps and aid workers warn conditions there are rapidly deteriorating.

Police said today that a 39-year-old man was killed and nine other injured when a gang of 20 armed with makeshift weapons burst into a hut at Whitehead camp during the night.

"About 20 masked people rushed into camp number four with weapons and attacked the people inside," a police spokesman said.

The latest violence broke out as international aid workers warned that conditions in the camps were deteriorating rapidly under the continued threat of forced repatriation.

"It's difficult to explain the mood of desperation that has set in. Morale has been plummeting in recent weeks and things like this are going to be more frequent," one camp worker said.

Hong Kong, which has 56,000 boat people jammed into its camps, regards 43,000 of them as potential illegal immigrants, and has imposed a policy of forced repatriation.

The abrupt deportation of 51 last December under a secret deal with Hanoi sent shock waves through the camps.

"Most people have been here so long they have become institutionalised. You get someone who make the best of their lives but there are some who just give up," the worker said.

Another worker said the biggest social problem now was the formation of gangs who terrorised other camp inmates.

"The guards and the police can do little to stop them. After four o'clock in the afternoon some of these places just become a no-go area. You can hear the sound of makeshift weapons being sharpened, or stones, or fragments of the workers said."

Three more bodies of suspected Vietnamese boat people have been found in southern Thailand, bringing to 14 the number believed killed by pirates, a police office said today.

The bodies of two women and one boy were found Tuesday on the coast of the Tha Sada district in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, the same area where the other bodies were discovered, said district police chief Lt. Col. Ratanak Kanjanachot.

Like the 11 bodies found earlier Sunday and Monday, each victim had a nylon rope tied around the neck. They had been dead for about 10 days, he said.

The two women appeared to be about 20 years old and the boy between 5 and 7, the officer said in a telephone interview.

Favourable winds and Malaysia's policy of pushing refugees back out to sea are behind sharply increasing numbers of Vietnamese boat people reaching Thailand in the past two months, a senior Thai security official said today.

"More Vietnamese boat people entered Thailand at the end of last year because the monsoon season was over and perhaps because Malaysia forced them back to sea," said Sawasdhi Daranon, a director of special affairs of the national security council.

A 28-nation conference to discuss whether thousands of Vietnamese boat people should be sent home from Hong Kong has finally been set for next week, the UN refugee agency said today, in Geneva.

The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is sponsoring the two-day conference, said the steering committee dealing with the boat people issue would meet in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday.

US disapproval of Britain's policy of forcibly deporting some Vietnamese asylum-seekers has caused several postponements of the committee meeting. The UNHCR would not say what had now made the meeting possible.

Police overpowered man who tried to hijack American plane to Cuba

Questions raised over killing of Ire robbers

DUBLIN, Jan 17. (Agencies): Robbers never once opened fire when Irish police foiled a bank raid that ended with one robber dead and eight people injured, a ballistics report revealed today.

The report, which could be deeply embarrassing for the Irish police, showed that all the injuries were caused by police weapons. The injured included three policemen.

One of the raiders, thought to be Dublin criminals rather than Irish Republican Army guerrillas on a fund-raising mission, died in hospital after Friday's raid at a bank in Athy, south-west Dublin.

The next day, British undercover soldiers shot dead three petty criminals robbing a betting shop in Belfast.

The Dublin government asked for a report on that shooting from the British

government and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey expressed "very serious disquiet and misgivings".

The Athy incident began when police surrounded the bank with the raiders, staff and customers inside. Detectives believe police began shooting when one of the gang appeared at the door with a bank employee and threatened to "blow his head off."

After the shooting, five of the raiders

guns were recovered but ballistic tests showed none had been fired.

Dublin police have now launched a top-level internal inquiry. Two of the gang, a passer-by, a bank teller and a bank porter received bullet wounds, as did the three policemen.

Two plainclothes British soldiers who had a weekend robbery in Belfast left behind three bodies and a tangle of questions: Did they give a warning? Why were they there? To what unit did they belong?

Most crucially, witnesses claimed the soldiers kept firing after the masked robbers lay wounded on the sidewalk. And once again, the British government was denying that its forces in Northern Ireland have orders to shoot to kill.

"I find it hard to believe that reasonable force was used," the Rev. Paddy

McWilliams said yesterday at the funeral of one of the victims.

"There is no shoot-to-kill policy for the security forces in Northern Ireland," said Brian Mawhinney, a high-ranking British official in the province.

Such allegations go back to 1982, when six people were killed in three separate police operations over a three-week period.

IRA letter bomb found

LONDON, Jan 17. (AP): Two letter bombs addressed to army officers in England were discovered yesterday before they could explode, and Scotland Yard indicated it suspected the Irish Republican Army was involved.

"The public must be vigilant when opening mail," said commander George Churhill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch. "If at all suspicious they must be urged to contact police immediately and leave the parcel alone."

"Military personnel and those involved in public life who are connected with Northern Ireland affairs are particularly vulnerable," he added.

Both bombs were discovered at the army's district headquarters in Aldershot, 40 miles (64 km) southwest of London. Both devices were destroyed in controlled explosions.

The army headquarters were evacuated, police said. Two other suspicious pieces of mail were checked and found to be harmless.

No group claimed responsibility for the devices, and police said postmarks on the two brown padded envelopes were smudged.

The IRA's last letter-bomb campaign on mainland Britain was three years ago when senior civil servants were the targets.

US troops to quit if Europe wants

East-West military talks

VIENNA, Jan 17. (Agencies): US joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, opening informal talks between Eastern and Western military leaders, said those on both sides of the crumbling iron curtain agree "the era of confrontation must end."

General Powell, head of a large US delegation to the three-week conference, also said yesterday that American troops stationed in Europe are not "sacrosanct."

"American troops are not occupying forces," he said, noting that President Bush has said US forces will stay in Europe only as long as the governments and people of Western Europe welcome them and Nato thinks they are needed.

The general's remarks came as the talks on security and defence began behind closed doors in Vienna's Hofburg Palace between chiefs of staff from 35 nations, including members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact's well as non-aligned European countries.

The unprecedented gathering billed as a seminar on "confidence and security building measures" in Europe, is intended as an exercise in informal frankness aimed at making progress on European arms reductions.

But the seminar is not a formal negotiation and specific results are not expected. There will be no concluding document.

Powell's Soviet counterpart, Chief of Staff Gen. Michail Moiseyev, said he is convinced the United States and Nato are no longer aggressively inclined toward the Soviet Union and its allies, but that "the military threat has not disappeared."

The Soviet commander said Moscow had gradually adopted a policy that "rejects wars as a means of settling international disputes and contradictions — economic, political, ideological, or any other."

War has become "obsolete, unacceptable and inadmissible" in the "world of nuclear deterrence," he said.

Another high-ranking Soviet general acknowledged today that the political changes among Moscow's East European allies will affect the Warsaw Pact military alliance.

"There will be changes in structure," said Gen. Nikolai Chervov, head of the directorate of the Soviet general staff.

But he said the "final form of those changes hasn't been decided."

Powell also indicated the threat of East-West military confrontation was diminishing.

"East and West have reached a common conclusion that the era of confrontation in Europe must end," Powell said. "Sharing in this vision, we can all work together to usher in a new era of European peace, security and freedom."

He said changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, along with broad arms reductions negotiations and East-West summitry, have brought hope to the world.

Nato, he said, was "enormously heartened by the declarations and initial evidence of an historic redefinition and restructuring of Warsaw Pact doctrine and forces to a defensive posture."

Powell said that brought the East Bloc into line with US military policy, which was also defensive.

"It is inconceivable that an alliance whose posture and purposes are subject to such intense public scrutiny in 16 democratic societies could ever undertake aggressive military action," Powell said.

He said the United States does not impose our views or military strategies on the alliance. Consultations are fundamental to the existence of Nato... our disagreements take place under the glare of public scrutiny."

Powell said there was no reason why military power in Europe should remain as it had for 40 years. Headed the United States hoped one day that military demands on European allies would be greatly diminished.

Real spring in Prague

Alexander Dubcek (right), Czechoslovak Parliament Speaker, gestures with European Commission President Jacques Delors (left) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, yesterday. Dubcek, leader of the crushed 1968 Prague Spring, attended a memorial service where he received a human rights prize. (Reuter wirephoto)

Man blown off when assembling book bomb

LONDON, Jan 17. (AP): An African who lived in Lebanon died when a book bomb he was assembling in a London hotel room exploded, an inquest was told yesterday.

Detective superintendent Christopher Bird of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad said there was "a hint" the man, Moustapha Malek, 21, may have been associated with Middle East terrorists.

"We know he was a Muslim, but the target and the reason for the bomb is not clear," he said, adding forensic tests revealed the device was a book bomb.

The bomb exploded in a room in the Beverley

House Hotel, in London's Paddington District, on Aug 3. A second explosion believed to have been caused by an aerosol can occurred shortly afterwards.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Westminster coroner Dr Paul Knapman said: "I find it difficult to express any sympathy to this man."

Bird said that Malek was born in Conakry, Guinea, held a French passport, and lived with his parents in a village just outside Beirut, Lebanon.

He said Malek left the village in July, telling his parents he was going to look for work in Beirut.

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Police kill 4 bandits

Italian kidnapping raid

LUINO, Italy, Jan 17. (Reuter): A paramilitary anti-kidnapping squad shot dead four members of one of Calabria's feared bandit gangs as they tried to abduct an industrialist's daughter in northern Italy, police said yesterday.

Police said they sprang an ambush last evening when four bandits, two dressed as police, drove up to a factory office near Luino, where the owner's daughter, 27-year-old Antonella Dallea, was working.

About 20 Carabinieri

paramilitary police sprayed the bandits with fire from submachine-guns when they refused to surrender and opened up with pistol and pump-action shotguns.

The four men, aged 26 to 39, were killed instantly while one policeman was wounded in the arm.

Police had staked out the homes and workplaces of four possible kidnap victims after warnings that a Calabrian clan was on a raid in the north of Italy.

About 20 Carabinieri

Cruise files for divorce

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17. (Reuter): Tom Cruise, star of the box office hit "Born on the Fourth of July," filed for divorce yesterday from his wife of 31 months, actress Mimi Rogers.

"While there have been very positive aspects to our marriage, there were some issues which could not be resolved even after working on them for a period of time," the couple said in a statement.

Cruise, 27, filed a divorce suit in Santa Monica superior court citing irreconcilable differences, all that is needed under California law.

The couple's assets have been divided in accordance with a separate agreement, the petition said.

Cruise and Rogers, 33, were married in May 1987. It was the second marriage for Rogers.

The man said he had a bomb and had some electronic device that blinked when he pointed it to the front of the aircraft, said passenger Herb Atwood of Cold Spring, Texas.

"He grabbed one of the stewardesses and had something around her neck," Atwood said. "He was holding orders. He said he wanted them to fly to Cuba, but the pilot said that we did not have enough fuel."

The man ordered all the passengers to move to the front of the aircraft, Atwood said.

Police spokesman Harold Elmore said after the plane landed, nearly 40 police officers, including hostage negotiators, surrounded the aircraft shortly before midnight.

Pilot Capt. Loyd Polk said he climbed up an escape hatch into the aircraft, then subdued Gonzales-Gonzales.

Police overpower man who tried to hijack American plane to Cuba

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan 17. (AP): A man who had a bomb took over an America West airliner and demanded to be flown to Cuba, but was arrested soon after the plane made an emergency landing in Austin, police said.

No one was seriously injured last night during flight 727 from Houston to Las Vegas or the arrest at Robert Mueller municipal airport, officials said.

Police overpowered the man aboard the

plane, which carried 34 passengers and five crew members.

FBI agent Byron Sage identified the man as Jose Manuel Gonzales-Gonzales, 39, and said he was believed to be from New Orleans and of Cuban descent.

The flight was diverted to Austin and landed shortly before 11:30 pm after trouble was reported aboard, America West spokeswoman Kathy Christensen said in Phoenix, where the airline is based.

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EMF hazard exaggerated: Shihab Eldin

No scientific evidence available so far

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): A leading Kuwaiti scientist argues that health hazards associated with exposure to power lines electromagnetic field (EMF) have been exaggerated and dramatised by the media and he strongly contends the association is not necessarily causal.

Dr Adnand Shihab Eldin, a principal research scientist at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, agrees, however, that there is "a theoretical possibility that a small cancer risk could stem from exposure to EMF."

Shihab Eldin offered the analysis when approached by Kuna to comment on a series of articles published last June in the American weekly magazine, "The New Yorker," which maintained that EMF exposure could be significantly hazardous to human health.

Referring to the reported cancer risk in cases of exposure to EMF, Shihab Eldin stresses in his analysis that "the likelihood of such a theoretical possibility is small enough not to warrant any fears, concerns or additional actions at present."

He says further research is needed and is being carried out to better understand and resolve the inconclusive findings of the few epidemiological studies that showed weak association between EMF exposure and cancer.

Claims of such hazards, he emphasised, are not proven or supported by the totality of the scientific evidence. Research or known principles available so far.

Shihab Eldin, a former director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (1970). He was a visiting scholar at Harvard, Cern and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in (1987-1989). He is the author of many books, papers, articles and reports in the field of nuclear physics, radiation effects and energy.

Warnings

"The New Yorker's" articles were not the first to caution against hazards of significant risk to the public from exposure to EMF near power lines or inside homes, as numerous reports had appeared in the media issuing similar warnings.

Shihab Eldin said the risks referred to "The New Yorker" articles by Paul Brouder, were based primarily on "impartially selected few epidemiological studies that have shown some weak association between incidence rates of leukemia and other cancer and exposures, among certain groups of children and adults, to weak electric and magnetic fields."

The articles overstressed the importance, and the validity of these few early studies while discrediting or obscuring all contrary evidence and results from a host of other epidemiological and experimental studies, he said.

The Kuwaiti scientist also noted that the articles tinged the scientific presentations

with a dramatic and novel-like narration of proceedings of few court cases brought against power companies, which made the articles read "like a script for a new Hollywood movie."

Emphasising that association between EMF exposure and risk, while necessary, is not sufficient to prove "casualty," Shihab Eldin said a number of other criteria must be satisfied for an association to be causal.

Among these are: strength of association, consistency, temporality (cause should precede effect in time) biological gradient, biological plausibility and coherence and experimental evidence.

So far, none of these criteria, he went on, has been shown to be valid in case of EMF hazards.

Most epidemiological studies carried out have shown no association between EMF exposure and cancer incidence rate outside the normal random statistical fluctuation within the confidence limits of these studies, he says.

Shihab Eldin, citing his review of relevant scientific literature and private communications with key specialists and experts concludes that:

"There is no proof that electromagnetic fields generated by overhead power lines or domestic transmission lines and appliances operating within regularity links and/or manufacturer specification are harmful to human health."

The epidemiological and experimental studies have failed so far to show any

evidence linking EMFs with cancer neither among adults nor among children exposed. They have also failed to prove the most basic requirements of toxicology and carcinogenesis — namely, the existence of dose-response relationship.

There is, however, still a very slight possibility, based on few inconclusive epidemiological studies showing very weak association, that some people under some circumstances may be exposed to some additional small hazards from EMFs exposure. We emphasise small possibility of small effect exist, but very improbable.

"We must nevertheless be prudent and wise. Present regulation regarding power line zones, wiring of transmission line and appliance specifications, should be followed and enforced, but unwarranted fear or panic should be avoided. We must remember, after all, that life is an electro-chemical process, that all living systems, including our bodies, depend for their proper functioning on the interaction between chemical processes and electric currents."

"The internal body EMFs at the cell boundaries far exceed those resulting from exposure to power lines, transmission lines and appliances, properly used. The risk to society from electrocution, resulting from misuse and malfunctioning of electrical appliances and wiring, will most likely prove to far exceed the risk from exposure to EMFs from power lines and appliances, if such risk is ever discovered and proven."

Transplant law awareness essential, says specialist

Proposal to reduce impediments

A KIDNEY specialist at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital said that 100 to 150 patients die in Kuwait every year due to kidney failure and added that 50 to 75 donors per year could positively reduce the death rate due to kidney failure.

Speaking at a seminar held at the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR), Dr. Mustafa Al Musawi said that patients die after one week of contracting complete kidney failure.

He defined total kidney failure as a state when both kidneys of the patient fail to function. Such patients, he said need dialysis of both kidneys at least three times a week — on each occasion the patient has to be hospitalised for four hours. Dialysis is not a cure, but only rids the body of accumulated toxins and prolongs life. Transplants are the only alternative, the doctor said.

Dr Bader Al-Yacoub from the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University said that Kuwaiti laws cope with latest scientific and medical developments in the field of organ transplants. The laws allow and encourage the donation of organs according to Muslim scholars and specialised Islamic bodies, provided these donations are not commercialised.

Further, organs cannot be donated, if the act would harm the health of the donor. A law was issued in 1987 to organise the issue of donation of human organs, Yacoub said.

Head of the Transplants Department at the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University, Dr. George Aboua has stressed the need for acquainting doctors and people with the provisions and articles of the transplants law.

Speaking at a symposium on "Transplants and cerebral death" organised by the Faculty of Medicine, he said that only eight cases of cerebral deaths were reported last year and family consent for transplant was given in only four cases.

He stressed the need for setting up a special committee to superv-

ise the implementation of regulations on transplants to facilitate the transfer of donated parts and overcome potential impediments.

Dr Ojail Nashmi, dean of the College of Islamic Studies, said that it was possible from the Islamic viewpoint to use a human part from the same person to treat another diseased area, on the condition that the rates of success and benefit were higher than those of risk and failure, and that the operation would not psychologically mar the person involved.

He indicated that psychiatry is a specialised science and treats patients on a personal basis in an effort to provide them with guidance and assistance.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the centre's first priority is to get the patient to confide in his psychiatrist and stressed that all information is kept strictly confidential.

The official said that to assist members of society to better appreciate the benefits of psychiatry, more efforts should be made by the mass media to enlighten the population of the efficacy of this branch of science.

The centre introduces several services directed towards providing various forms of assistance related to problems of the mind. The centre conducts various IQ tests to indicate educational problems. Other services include providing social advice to married couples.

The official said that it is essential to reach complete co-ordination between the centre and various work establishments as the centre prepares studies and researches in the field of mental stresses of employees and provides establishments with advice to improve employees' performance.

Meanwhile, Public Health Minister undersecretary Dr. Nael Al-Nagheeb said that senior positions vacated at the ministry recently will be filled by highly qualified leading from teaching staff.

He told a local daily that the positions vacated by the resignation of the ministry's assistant undersecretary for Pharmaceutical Affairs and Medical Supplies Ibrahim Al Mufid and the assistant undersecretary for Administrative and Legal Affairs Abdul Karim Al Saeed fall within the above category.

Premier chairs planning meeting

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdalla Al Salem Al Sabah today presided over the third meeting of the Supreme council for Planning.

The council's Secretary General Fauzi Mulla Hussain said the council discussed a project on establishment of a petrochemical complex. He said the project was referred to the council by HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Chairman of the Council.

In a statement to Kuna, Hussain said chairman of the economic committee thanked HH for referring the project to the council for consideration, adding it was in line with the country's long-term development strategy.

He said the council decided to adjourn discussion of the issue to another meeting to listen to the opinion of Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa Al Sabah.

Hussain said chairman of the social services committee presented a report on the impact of alien phenomena on the Kuwaiti community, adding the council had asked the committee to conduct more research on the issue with the aim of introducing some amendments prior to discussing it in the upcoming session.

He said the committee on demographic policies and development of human resources submitted a report based on a long-term strategy with the aim of increasing productivity, adjusting the country's population and preserving the identity of the community.

The council's secretary general said HH the Crown Prince and premier had hailed the positive recommendations contained in the report and reiterated the government's keenness on developing human resources.

He added that the council endorsed the strategy which would be referred to the council of ministers for final approval.

Only weeds

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti coasts are free of oil pollution, the Environment Protection Council said here today.

Secretary of the council Ibrahim Mohammed Hadi told Kuna that what citizens see floating on the coastal waters is but brown weeds that are of the shape of small balls.



PAAET workshop

The Vocational Development Centre at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) organised a workshop at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel from 5:00 to 8:00 pm Tuesday for the demonstration of "DACUM" which is identified as a new system for developing applied methods.

The workshop, which was patronised by the Director General of PAAET, Dr. Abdurahman Al Muhalian, was attended by Dr. Pop Northorn from USA and a number of senior officials.

Dr. Northorn lectured at the workshop and demonstrated the specifications of the new system before many people who were gathered there. The lecturer answered questions from the floor at the conclusion of the demonstration.

From the courts

Court upholds death verdict in murder case

THE Court of Higher Appeals has upheld the verdict of death issued by the Criminal Court against a man charged with the premeditated murder of his mistress's husband, but, reduced the sentence of the woman to life imprisonment.

The court was told that the mistress opened the front door of her house and permitted her paramour to enter the bedroom of her husband where he was fast asleep. The accused then stabbed the husband to death.

The court was told that the suspect was a jeweller and asked if he could take some gold samples to show his old mother.

The jeweller agreed and sent one of his employees with the accused. However, on the way, the youth pretended that something was wrong with his car and asked the boy to assist him. Immediately, as the boy alighted

from the car, the suspect drove off.

On being apprehended, he confessed that he had sold the gold for half its normal value. The jewellery was recovered in full and returned to the owner.

Smuggling

THE Police Patrol Command in Jahra last Wednesday successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country through the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

The patrol chased the driver of a Nissan Gloria car who refused an order to stop and had to resort to shooting the tyres of the suspect's car to bring it to a halt.

On investigation the accused and his companion were found to be carrying 279 bottles of liquor, two medical syringes, one carton of drug pills, and two magazines of 59 bullets.

The accused and the contraband have been referred to investigative authorities.

The court acquitted the three

Jleeb Shuyookh residents happy with changes

JLEEB Shuyookh Area has witnessed many good changes in constructional development during the past decade and a local daily interviewed a number of residents to highlight their opinions and views on the area and its services.

Rasheed Jaber stated that Jleeb Shuyookh now is much better than before adding that projects and maintenance works have begun to show visible signs of benefit. The Ministry of Public Works exerts efforts towards the maintenance of roads and streets since several months ago.

He pointed out that Jleeb Shuyookh has become a clean area due to residents' efforts in complying with the cleanliness law as also due to Kuwait Municipality cleaning operations. He indicated that despite these developments in the area, some roads at some residential blocks are still unpaved causing dust particularly during summer season. He hoped that officials at the Public Works Ministry will redress this problem as soon as possible.

On the other hand, looking at lighting columns in the area, many require maintenance and have been out of order since a long time ago. He said that such services require regular maintenance to light the area. He also hoped for more efforts in numbering the area blocks and plots for better guidance.

Ali Jasem stated that Jleeb Shuyookh Co-operative Society is fully serving its purpose. He praised the level of prices compared with prices offered at other co-operative societies in the country. He added that it is highly beneficial that it stays open 24 hours a day.

He pointed out that the public garden opposite the co-operative has been neglected for a long time. He hoped that officials will provide it with more care and security due to the fact that it is the only garden in the area which most families consider as a recreation area.

He believes that it would be much better if members of the board of the society were elected by the government with the co-ordination of the Co-operative Societies Union. He added that the current situation suffers many tribal disputes related to membership. He called upon officials to establish several branches due to the large area.

Ahbas Al Otaibi said that many traffic accidents have occurred at the area due to a lack of pedestrian bridges. He also called for providing schools with government buses to secure their transportation.

He complained from the inadequate practices of some reckless youths who cause disturbances to families living in the area.

Ali Al Mtairi stated that lack of security control at the area made it a place which attract youths towards reckless practices. He added that several thefts have been recently reported at the area. He called for more security patrols to prevent further annoyance to residents and to preserve peace.

Abdullah Al Jtaii pointed out that the area clinic does not provide residents with adequate health services. Meanwhile, he added that the clinic is crowded and require improvements in services to cover patients' needs.



New computer introduced

Smile Electronics, Appliances and Computers introduced the new Weanars Boldina M Series of computers at a press conference held at Kuwait International Hotel Tuesday. Chey Hin Ang, account manager for the Middle East of MUMPS Systems Support, a Singapore-based member of Weanars Technology, demonstrated the computer that features a unique built-in upgrade system on the motherboard. He said that this computer will benefit users in the long run because they need not invest heavily in future technology until software technology catches up. Weanars Technology calls its new computer "The Computer With the Future Built-In."

British minister in Sharjah

ABU DHABI, Jan 17 (Kuna): British State Minister for Trade Lord Trefgarne today met in Sharjah with ruler of Sharjah emirate and member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Supreme Council Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasemi.

Earlier today, he conferred with ruler of Ras Al Khaimah emirate Sheikh Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Qasemi.

Trefgarne told reporters at the Middle East Electricity (MEE) '90 exhibition in Dubai that prospects for such an agreement were already bright.

He pointed out that British exports to the UAE this year rose by 22 per cent as compared to 1988.

Labourers decry abuse of human rights

State implementing measures to redress issue

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times Staff

"NO one in the whole world turns his employee into a slave and ruins his life for the sake of a little amount of money and sponsors should have sympathy for their employees," said a Sri Lankan worker A.S. Surasna.

Surasna, who was duped by a recruitment agency in his country, told the Arab Times that he is facing hard times with his sponsor.

Surasna's personal documents were confiscated by his sponsor and he was not paid for several months. The worker who is a qualified technician, was cheated by the recruitment agency who sent him to Kuwait as a driver without telling him about his job here. Surasna was shocked when he came here and found out that he would be working as a driver at his employer's house.

Being a neophyte as a driver, Surasna says he was beaten by his sponsor. The frightened worker said that his embassy is negotiating with his sponsor to sort out the problem and send him back home while his employer insists on making him work for his fare.

"My sponsor beat me several times and refused to give me my passport, because I refused to work with him as a driver," Surasna said. Funds were raised by his community to help and send him back home. Surasna concluded that being brought here at a low wage of KD40 should not be misinterpreted to mean that he is a very cheap human being.

"This KD40 does not give my sponsor the right to beat me. Any civilised human being should send his employee back home if things do not come up to his expectations," he added.

24-28-year-old Sri Lankan worker Hajan Adhika who works for a private company said that he came here through a recruitment agency and is paid KD30 per month. Since his arrival he was forced to sign another contract and was paid only KD25 plus accommodation. When he asked for a pay raise after five years, he got an increment of one dinar. Adhika, who felt humiliated by this one dinar, tried to change to another sponsor but his employer threatened to cancel his residence. He added that he preferred not to file a case against his sponsor because he was told it would take a long time in court.

Trauma

Another 22 Sri Lankan cleaners suffered the trauma of non-payment followed by the threat of deportation during April last year. Workers not paid for two months insisted on not signing any pledge with the company. Their passports and other personal documents were not with them to prove their residence in Kuwait.

These workers sought the assistance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to get their dues and residence that have not been provided to them since their arrival. Their sponsor says that they are liars and claimed they were being paid regularly. The cleaners' monthly salaries range from KD25 to 35.

An official at the Sri Lankan embassy said that workers comprise 30 per cent of the 90,000 Sri Lankan community in Kuwait, who mainly work in cleaning companies, electric firms, road works and construction companies.

He added that around 10 to 15 complaints are received daily by the embassy for non-payment and change of residence. The embassy tries to contact the sponsor and sort out the problem. If they fail, the complaint is filed at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, if the

case remains unsolved it is then referred to court.

The official said that workers with low wages cannot pay for lawyers and the embassy cannot do much because they came from Colombo to Kuwait through an agent without the knowledge of the embassy here. However, the embassy tries to help them.

He added that recruiting agencies in Sri Lanka including Kuwait are unlicensed, resulting in workers falling prey to these unscrupulous people by their false promises. Most of these workers are illiterate and are seeking better jobs outside their country. The result is exploitation at very cheap wages for large numbers due to the fact that there is no ban on travelling abroad.

Alternatives

The official added that other alternatives should be sought such as a ban on the travel of large numbers and allow other alternatives for economic employment avenues to workers in their country. The outflow of workers to the Middle East should also be regulated, he said.

He said that it is very difficult to specify a set of workers' wages because of competition among Asian countries and stressed on the importance of a unified study among Asian countries to regulate and organise the export of labourers to the Middle East.

Many workers in construction and cleaning companies went on strike last year for non-payment. Among them were 900 workers who were repatriated to India on April 26, 1989.

These were employed on a section of Al Quraain Housing Project and went on strike on Jan 17, 1989 for non-payment of wages for four months. Three strikes were staged by the workers. However, after a breakthrough was reached in talks in New Delhi, the employer agreed to make an ad hoc payment of KD49,000 as part of outstanding wages and bear their repatriation costs. The labourers were owed more than KD135,000 in back wages. Workers on strike were on the verge of starvation and lived in pathetic conditions until Indian volunteer groups were asked to feed them and then the Indian Embassy took over from volunteers from mid-March.

Second contract

The First Secretary at the Indian Embassy, Verghese Gee, said that the number of Indians in Kuwait is about 150,000 of whom 60 per cent work in the construction, oil, administrative, cleaning and other similar jobs.

He added that the main problems for workers here are non-payment, under-payment and delay of payment. Most of the workers who come to us with complaints are not only concerned about the quantum but also about non-payment.

"We only come to know about the second work contract when the workers complain to us about non-payment and the matter is taken to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour," Gee said. He explained that the first contract is signed abroad while the worker is induced to sign a second work contract when he arrives in Kuwait.

He said that if there is a second contract then we cannot do much, but it is a matter of interpretation on which is valid. Any employee recruited from India has to get all the papers attested from the concerned authorities there to work abroad. He added that advice is given to the worker before travelling, to abide by the original contract.

He added that in case any worker seeks the help of the embassy, it tries to solve the problem and negotiate with the sponsor, to reach an amicable settlement. If negotiations fail,

Sheikh Zayed calls on US help in name of friendship

ABU DHABI, Jan 17. (AP) — Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, today called on the United States to help solve the Palestinian problem in the name of its friendship with Arab states.

He also urged the United States to use its force as a superpower to turn the Iran-Iraq ceasefire into a lasting peace for the rest of the Gulf region.

Responsibilities

"The problems of the Middle East are painful problems, and a true friend cannot remain silent at the pain of his friend," said the UAE President as he received the credentials of the new American ambassador, Edward Walker.

The United States, he said in the statements distributed by the official news agency Wam, should give priority to relations with nations with which it was bound by friendship and mutual

interests. "The UAE welcomes the development of co-operation with the United States and is keen to see this co-operation ... serving issues of joint concern and helping confront causes and joint interests because any friendship that does not mean mutual benefit has no future," Sheikh Zayed said.

The United States, he added, had major responsibilities and interests in the Arab and Islamic world and was called upon to "co-operate positively with the Arab states to find solutions to the problems they face, led by the Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict."

Sheikh Zayed, an ardent supporter of Pan-Arab issues led by the Palestinian problem, has often blasted Washington on charges that it was biased towards Israel. But he has always insisted that his country harboured friendship for the United States.



Expatriate labourers ... living in pathetic conditions and faced with long working hours, non-payment of wages and assault.

the issue is referred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour according to the procedure here and then to the court if it is still unsolved.

Suresh M. Mathur, the Second Secretary at the Indian Embassy, said that generally no problems are encountered on transfer of residence because most workers come with a limited work contract, especially in the construction sector. If a transfer is not possible locally then the worker can re-enter with a new visa after cancelling the old one.

These were employed on a section of Al Quraain Housing Project and went on strike on Jan 17, 1989 for non-payment of wages for four months. Three strikes were staged by the workers. However, after a breakthrough was reached in talks in New Delhi, the employer agreed to make an ad hoc payment of KD49,000 as part of outstanding wages and bear their repatriation costs.

About the numbers of Indians employed in the cleaning companies, he said that recently, not many Indians are working in the cleaning sector due to the fact that wages are lower than those provided by the Indian government.

About the numbers of Indians employed on a second work contract, the official said that some get compensation while they are here, others when they go back and unfortunately some get nothing at all. He added that it is often difficult to solve these problems if the sponsor does not respond or co-operate. Thus the showing up of the sponsor can spare both parties such problems.

Controversy

A group of eight Egyptian workers told the Arab Times that they work in the construction sector. Thirty-six-year-old Ahmed Abdul Moutawi, who works in a big construction company, said he and other friends came here through an agency in Cairo and are paid between KD 5 to 10 daily. He admitted that they face no problem here except transferring from one sponsor to another. He added that the article in the new labour regulation that states the three year period made things difficult for them. This restricted the mobility of many workers here and caused inconvenience between the employers and workers.

Moutawi added that he paid about KD 400 in Cairo to come here, yet he was able to save money and send it back home. For accommodation, he is living with other friends in Farwaniya Area in one room for KD 13 per month. Moutawi plans to stay here for another four years to save enough money to buy a piece of land.

Ahmed Ghafour Sha'ban, who is 40 years old, is works as an electrician in a construction company. He said that he is

Amiri pardon for 250 prisoners

By Salem Al Wawani

THE Interior Ministry has reportedly finished preparing lists of prisoners to be covered by the Amiri amnesty on the occasion of the country's National Day.

Sources quoted by Seyasah said that the lists would be submitted to senior ministry authorities before final submission for endorsement by higher government officials.

The sources added that those to be released under the Amiri pardon would include prisoners who have already spent half their jail terms on criminal charges and quarter of their jail terms on charges of misdemeanour.

Education Ministry protects teachers

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Al Nouri has endorsed decision revising a clause under the current code on private education, whereby applicants for licences to set up private schools will have to submit a financial guarantee from a local bank.

Under the revised clause, schools will be obliged to submit a financial guarantee under three categories. First if the proposed school should contain from 1 to 500 students the guarantee value will be KD3000, from 501 to 1000 students the guarantee value shall be KD6000 and from 1001 students upwards the guarantee value shall be KD7000.

The second article stipulates that the school owner shall have to submit a written statement to the ministry entitling it to withdraw the guarantee, partly or wholly, with the right to take the legal, administrative and financial measures deemed necessary in the case of failure by the school owner to pay the salaries of his teaching staff and members of the school administration.

The article also entitled the ministry to decide to take necessary measures against failure by the school owner to make the necessary repairs or fill the existing shortages, in implementation of article seven of the decision. Additionally, the ministry has the right to revoke the licence, withdraw the financial guarantee and payment of all financial dues to students or school staff.

The decision also provided for stipulating the tuition fees applicable to foreign schools implementing the American education system, in line with the schools where the system is based on the British educational system.

increase the national manpower working in the private sector.

He said that the ministry tries to create a balance between the needs of the local market for manpower and the social and security risks that occur from the increasing number of workers who are not really necessary.

In a recent interview with the Arab Times, Shahwan said that labour regulations issued last year to regulate the labourers in the private sector have adversely affected the flow of expatriates into the country. Only 10 sectors in the private sector can recruit foreign labourers. However, other factors influencing the flow of expatriate manpower to Kuwait originate from outside the ministry.

He added that about 64,000 expatriate labourers entered Kuwait for the first time in 1988 and over 27,800 left the country permanently. This leaves a net of about 36,200 labourers who added to expatriate manpower during 1988.

He said that the number of expatriate immigrants to Kuwait and their movements are influenced by a number of factors, some determined and controlled by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour's measures to protect labourers in the private sector regarding security deposit states that this amount of money should be provided in the form of a bank guarantee issued by a Kuwaiti bank to the concerned labour department. This decision fixed the respective amounts as follows:

Establishments employing up to 500 — KD 250 per worker.

Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 200 per worker.

Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 150 per worker.

Guarantees

Another article states that the employer should authorise the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour or his deputy to withdraw such amounts as may be required by the ministry for disbursement to workers. Such authorisations by the employer should be forthcoming no later than 15 days after receiving intimation from the ministry by registered mail. The bank guarantee cannot be considered cancelled until the ministry informs the bank to this effect.

Any violation of these decisions will be dealt with legally, the ministerial decision said.

Regarding the non-payment of workers, the ministry issued a decree No. 89/1989 which stipulates that every firm recruiting workers from abroad should deposit KD 250 for each worker along with a letter from the bank confirming that this amount is at the ministry's disposal if the firm breached its commitments to employees' wages.

Speaking on the transfer of residence, the official said that this can be done after the worker has been employed for a minimum period of three years with the same sponsor. Whenever problems arise, the case is referred to the Residence Department for a gradual decision, the official said.

He added that since the implementation of the Labour Law in 1964, no fees are charged for any case filed by an employee and these cases are quickly processed. In this respect, the Labour Court at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour only deals with labour disputes and to facilitate speeding up the process, a special judge is appointed at the Court of First Instance.

In some exceptional cases, delays do occur which result from the need for financial experts to undertake an in-depth study, the official said.

Shahwan, in an interview with one of the Arabic dailies in Dec 1989, said that the present labour law pertaining to the private sector does not allow the establishment of private sector recruitment agencies for import of labourers.

He added that the ministry allows local companies to import workers who are needed only for their projects. It also does not allow a shortage in the workforce which might increase the level of salaries. The state continues to

work for a gradual decision, the official said.

He added that the ministry has been residing in Kuwait for a constant period of 10 years from the provision of the duration stipulated in the proceeding article; if the relevant labour contract has been terminated under the consent of the employer concerned, or in accordance with the provisions of either Article 57 or Article 59 of the Private Sector Labour Law.

The Director of Expert's Department at the Ministry of Justice, Khalid A. Al Mudhaf, told the Arab Times that the number of labour cases with the Expert's Department at the ministry was 1,546 last year compared to 1,598 in 1988.

He said that those cases concerned wages of labourers and added that not so long ago cases of this concern would take up to more than one year when referred to the expert's department.

Firms, which, in the opinion of the ministry warrant a bank guarantee.

On the matter of transfer of residence, Article 16 of the new regulations of the labour law states that: Any labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to serve a certain employer shall not be transferred to another employer before at least three years, whether such a labourer was brought from abroad or locally employed. The validity of relevant duration shall commence to run with effect from the date of issuing the labour permit.

In the event of terminating the employment contract concluded between employer and labourer within this period for any reason whatsoever, the employer shall be held liable for the repatriation of such labourer, even if he/she is locally employed.

With regard to government projects, labourers shall not be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of the contract, even if it exceeds the duration provided for herein before, save in the case of project contract withdrawal from the principal contractor, for re-adjudication in the favour of another contractor.

Labourers may then be transferred to the latter, without applying the duration condition stipulated hereof.

Upon the expiry of the government contract, the employer may transfer such labourers to another employer of a similar project, or repatriate them pursuant to the provisions of this resolution. This minister may exempt any person, as he deems appropriate, from the condition of the duration stipulated in this article.

Article 17 states that the ministry may exempt those who have been residing in Kuwait for a constant period of 10 years from the provision of the duration stipulated in the proceeding article; if the relevant labour contract is cancelled while the case is in process can get a certificate signed from the court, with full detail after each session to submit it to the concerned authorities/Immigration Administration and the Ministry of Social Affairs asking for permission to extend his residence.

SHIPPING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Alghanim Transportation Services, Kuwait's most successful shipping Company, has immediate career opportunities at various levels to join our expanding team:

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To manage one of our shipping lines, involved with container and/or break bulk or ro-ro services. Candidates should have 5 years proven experience.

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

To promote ocean freight, air freight and land transport services. Candidates should have a minimum of 2-3 years sales experience in freight services.

PORT SUPERVISOR

To handle all ship operation, and vessel coordination at the port. Candidates should have 5 years previous experience and be able to make an immediate contribution to the operations.

DOCUMENTATION PERSONNEL

Supervisors and officers required to handle all documentation requirements including cargo manifest, release and delivery orders, container control, customer service and import/export documentation. Experienced candidates must possess typing and P.C. skills.

TRAFFIC/TARIFF OFFICERS

To cost, and prepare tariff quotation and provide additional customer services. Candidates should be self motivated with a minimum of 3 years relevant experience.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EAT to live, and do not live to eat — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

SLA act as Israeli proxies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon. (Reuters): The 2,500 Christian, Muslim and Druze fighters of the South Lebanon Army are Lebanese, but the welcome sign at the headquarters of the militia is in Hebrew.

Officially, Israel keeps up a pretence of independence for the SLA, portraying it to a local self-defence force that shares Israeli interest in halting Palestinian and Lebanese Shiite Muslim attacks.

But from training, to equipment and salaries Israel's support for the SLA is so all-encompassing that it is certain to keep soldiers of the Jewish state in Lebanon for the indefinite future.

"The day we will be facing only Lebanese opponents, we will be able to do without IDF (Israel Defence Force) support," SLA commander General Antoine Lahd told reporters on a recent visit.

Israel, which established the SLA in 1985 to protect its northern border, will continue to back its own militia in a country ruled by rival warlords enmeshed in ever-shifting foreign alliances.

Unusually for a Lebanese militia, the SLA crosses religious divides. It is roughly half-Christian and one-third Shiite, with the remainder Druze and Sunni Muslims. Most officers are Christian.

But the greeting over the entrance of the SLA base in the town of Marjayoun, "Welcome to IDF and SLA headquarters in the security zone," is in Hebrew. The Arabic-speaking SLA officers glance towards Israeli escorts for approval before answering reporters' questions.

"Look, we never had that we set it up, it's our area," an Israeli officer said when pressed about SLA independence. "There is not a militia or armed group in Lebanon that is on its own."

Israeli strings are most obvious in paying the bills. On top of \$2.7 million annually in militia salaries, the Jewish state even provides a grant to buy food for the SLA because the Lebanese did not like the supplies Israel initially provided.

The equipment is also Israeli, often weapons too antiquated for Israeli forces or trophies of their past conflicts with Arab armies such as Soviet-made T-55 tanks and 130mm artillery.

Training is provided inside the security zone at locations such as Majidieh, where Israelis teach tank warfare. Some SLA soldiers are sent to Israel for training.

Control of the 850 sq km (328 sq mile) security zone is maintained through armoured patrols and fortified observation posts that draw on Israel's experience in border defence.

The 2,500 troops of the SLA are backed by an undisclosed but limited number of Israelis. Foreign military attaches estimate the Israeli presence in the zone at less than 800 men.

Officials give few details of the Israeli role in the four-to-12-km-wide (three-to-eight-mile) strip, but they run their own patrols, maintain their own outposts and keep a close watch over their SLA allies.

Israeli officials say the SLA is free to retaliate for attacks but consults Israel before initiating action. Since some SLA positions adjoin Syrian lines, the leash is tightly held.

Israel also runs a civil administration, the same title used in its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Nearly \$4 million a year helps maintain the primitive infrastructure of a war-battered region that is devoid even of telephones.

Israel denies any interest in permanent control but there is no question of it withdrawing in the foreseeable future.

By the Israeli measure of success — ensuring Palestinian commandos do not penetrate their border — the arrangement has worked.

Soviets allow Hebrew teaching

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (Reuters): Members of a Soviet Jewish group who once had to work in secret, facing prison for teaching Hebrew, say they are now operating openly with the blessing of Soviet authorities.

Teachers in the Machanaim group who immigrated to Israel say they study at s leading Occupied Jerusalem rabbinical college, then return to the Soviet Union to train leaders for a Jewish community they say has only 15 rabbis at estimated two million people.

Machanaim's Pinhas Polonsky told Reuters that a few years ago, Moscow police threatened him with imprisonment for giving Hebrew lessons.

Now an Israeli citizen, Polonsky returned to his old home in the Soviet Union recently to find President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have unleashed a religious revival in which Jews are thirsting for knowledge of their roots and ritual.

Walking through central Moscow, his skullcap and fringed ritual vest quickly drew a crowd of Jews eager for information on religion, Zionism and Israel, he told Reuters.

"One man came up to me and whispered, 'are you from over there (Israel)?'

"He said, 'I said yes and he asked a question, my answer brought another question and when he heard I wasn't whispering he started to speak aloud. In five minutes there was a crowd of 15 people round us in the middle of the street asking for information,' he said.

Leading Israeli rabbis met Soviet officials in Moscow last May and obtained permission to train Soviet Jews as teachers, preachers and community leaders. Jerusalem's Fiscal Institute started preparing Machanaim activists for the job in November.

The Machanaim graduates will serve in the Soviet Union as visiting teachers, while the 15 home-grown Soviet rabbis will study in Jerusalem during the summer.

The institute and Machanaim kept the project secret during its initial stages but plan to make a public appeal for support at a dinner in New York on January 25 to be attended by Soviet Jewish emigre Natan Sharansky.

Polonsky, one of six Machanaim activists to have travelled back to the Soviet Union on lecture tours, found dramatic changes under Gorbachev.

"These days it's easier for an Israeli to get a visa to visit Moscow than one to visit New York," he said.

Polonsky says he spoke to full houses in synagogues, schools, the state-run Institute of Matatology and, ironically, the Institute for Scientific Atheism.

Moscow severed diplomatic ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war but recently exchanged consular delegations and diplomats say cultural links are now stronger than before the war.

Science Minister Egon Weizsaecker met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last week and said the Kremlin offered to raise relations to the level of charge d'affaires.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1520 — King Christian II of Denmark and Norway defeats Sweden at Lake Asunden and subsequently conquers Sweden.
 1701 — Brandenburg's Frederick III is crowned Frederick I, King of Prussia.
 1913 — Greek and Turkish naval forces battle off Tenedos isle.
 1915 — Japan issues secret ultimatum to China regarding rights in Shantung and Manchuria.
 1918 — Russian constituent assembly opens in Petrograd.
 1952 — Anti-British riots break out in Egypt.
 1963 — Government of Charles de Gaulle in France insists that Britain be barred from European Common Market.
 1968 — United States and Soviet Union agree on draft treaty to control nuclear weapons.
 1973 — United States and North Vietnam announce that negotiators will meet to complete text of peace pact.
 1976 — France expels at least 40 Soviet officials on grounds they have worked as spies.
 1986 — Fierce fighting in South Yemen's capital city of Aden interrupts evacuation of foreigners.
 1987 — Media representatives from 34 nations, meeting in London, call for concerted action against censorship, including "hot line" for journal under threat.
 1988 — Loyalist troops in Argentina launch artillery and infantry assault on northeastern army compound held by renegade officer.
 1989 — Thousands of Czechoslovakians converge on Prague's central Wenceslas Square chanting "freedom," "truth," and "human rights" on fourth consecutive day of public dissent.



Militants from the Azeri Popular Front waving the flag of the once independent Azerbaijani Republic. (Regular wirephoto).

Armenians, Azerbaijanis clash in Baku

Soviet south belligerence rekindled

MOSCOW. (Reuters): "There were too many murders for records to be kept, and too many to be forgotten by these merciless enemies," an eyewitness wrote of fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Caspian Sea port of Baku.

At least 34 people died in two nights of burning, looting and killing in Azerbaijan's capital last weekend and the eyewitness account is of events 85 years ago, when thousands died in a two-week orgy of violence amid blazing oil fields.

History is repeating itself in the Soviet south where an age-old bitterness born of racial and religious antagonism has erupted again into bloodshed between the mainly Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis.

Time and time again — in 1818, 1905, 1918, 1988 and now 1990 — the two sides have turned to violence to settle feuds. But their lasting enmity has defied settlement, even with the problem-solving skills of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan, which sit side-by-side in the Caucasus mountains forming the Soviet Union's southern border with Turkey and Iran, has had a durable independent state in modern times.

In the 1800s both people's ancestral lands were divided between two powers.

Armenia, often called the world's oldest Christian nation, was split between Russia and Turkey, while Azerbaijan, Muslim since the seventh century, was divided between Russia and Iran.

But within the borders of first the Russian empire and then the Soviet Union, both peoples continued to claim several of the same territories as their own. The best known is Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan which is at the centre

of the current dispute.

While they have often lived together in the same communities, especially in the Azerbaijani capital Baku after it became an oil city of international importance at the turn of the century, they have zealously guarded their own traditions against encroachment by the other.

Against this background, violence has broken out repeatedly, with each side usually blaming the other for starting it.

No human being can even classify or analyse the multitude of versions of the start of these massacres," wrote J. D. Henry, a turn-of-the-century journalist who wrote a book about the 1905 bloodbath in Baku.

"I毫不犹豫地 declare that no one can put forward a theory that will be universally accepted as true. Baku is the hotbed of wild theories, misrepresentations and lies," he wrote in a passage modern journalists can appreciate.

Among the contributing factors he listed labour unrest and economic rivalry. Most of the workers in the oil fields were Azerbaijanis while among the rich oil company bosses there were many Armenians.

In 1918, in the vacuum left by the collapse of the Russian empire, both enjoyed brief independence and fought each other over Nagorno-Karabakh, an attractive upland farming area occupying about 1,700 square miles (4,400 square km) roughly midway between Baku and Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

The same piece of land, with its rich vineyards and villages perched on mountainsides, was the scene of another bloodletting between the two peoples from 1818 to 1820.

Moscow gave it to Azerbaijan in 1924 but the

dispute over sovereignty is again the issue now.

A two-year-old campaign by its majority Armenian population to join Armenia sparked clashes in which more than 150 people have been killed, according to official accounts. But as in the 1905 clashes, the officials have probably lost count.

Until last week the worst violence had been reported in Sumgait, an industrial centre north of Baku where 32 people, most of them Armenians were killed in February 1988.

But the weekend violence in Baku, which broke out after an Azerbaijani nationalist rally degenerated into an anti-Armenian witchhunt, appeared to be much worse.

By Tuesday Armenians and Azerbaijanis armed with automatic guns, helicopters and armoured personnel carriers captured from Soviet security forces were fighting battles in the mountains around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The virtual civil war follows a year of defiance from Moscow. The latest violence exploded in December when the Kremlin tried to hand most of the reins of power back to Azerbaijan.

Neither side was satisfied and the weapons which had been piling up for months were brought out. Kremlin envoys arriving in Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, came under sniper fire on their way into town.

Azerbaijanis militants, their nationalist fervour fanned by a new popular front movement, defied Moscow by tearing down border fences separating them from Azerbaijanis living in Iran.

The Kremlin has reacted by ordering a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas, but not in Baku, perhaps out of fear of inflaming Azerbaijani nationalism even more.

Roy J. Roy
Jeeb Al Shuyookh.

Suspicious silence

SIR: This refers to various letters that appeared in the Arab Times criticising the working style of the so-called organisation, "UMO". We presume, it is the hobby of certain Maldivians to form organisations with very few members and to access each other of of wrongdoing in the public. Whether the accusations are true or not, they failed to realise how others are mocking at them. The vast majority of Maldivians are also watching the fun as none of these organisations represent them.

Even though the other leaders of UMO have made lengthy claims in the past, they were still insensitive to the present criticism. Why? We know from the beginning it was a paper tiger, its officials, trying to gain undue fame and publicity by every means, I sincerely hope someone responsible in the UMO will have the courage to come out of its suspicious silence rather than creating fictitious supporters and show something credible to prove its claims.

A.N.Sathyadas
Safat.

Pick-pocketing

SIR: Last Friday, 12th January, 1990 while I was getting on a bus at the Central Bus Depot at Murgab my purse was picked by someone. My Civil ID, KD 17.000 and US\$25.00 were stolen.

Subsequently I came to learn that more than 50 (fifty) cases of pocket picking were performed by the miscreants that day alone at the place. In most cases the purse was thrown away after taking out the money from it and the KPTC collected some of the purses from the bus depot.

We request the Police Department to keep an eye so that these sort of criminals can be caught and punished. These people are taking advantages from the places where there is possibilities of rust like Bus Depot, Souk al-Watia where many people gather on Sunday.

The criminals can also be caught from the finger prints on the purse and so the purses should be deposited with the police whoever gets any purse abandoned anywhere.

We hope that the law enforcing authorities will take immediate action in this regard.

I also request members of the public who had been pick-pocketed to report to the police, whatever small amount is stolen, so that the police may have an idea of the crime and go ahead to stop the crime.

Mohammed Chowdhury E. Sufat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"I wasn't concentrating on a few points, but it was good practice and I played better than in the first match. It was fun hitting with Boris, we had a good time and some good rallies and both enjoyed it very much. But it was a little bit difficult today. Perhaps last night I was trying a little bit harder, trying to play well and not make too many mistakes. It was not too easy coming back to the women's game." Graf after beating Erika de Lone.

"The recent racist move of the British government shows the rash reaction of the colonists towards the revival of Islamic identity and teachings, especially after the decree of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeini against Salman Rushdie" — Imaa quoting an Iranian minister who warned Britain over deportation of Iranian students.

"While there have been very positive aspects to our marriage, there were some issues which could not be resolved even after working on them for a period of time." — Tom Cruise and his wife Mimi Rogers in a divorce statement.

"By referring to Hrawi as a president you don't recognise my cabinet which is the legal one. Not recognising me you are not recognising the laws I represent. This has to stop or be dealt with according to the law. You can call Hrawi anything but a president." — Aoun to reporters after bannings news on Hrawi.

"Ceausescu understood well before the Soviets that only the support, money and technology of the West could save the communist nations from crumbling. He therefore was the first to simulate reform, beginning in 1972. What Ceausescu did in 1972, (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev is doing now." — Former Romanian spy chief.

Romania faces an uphill task to rebuild

BUCHAREST. (Reuters): Romania's future is like a giant and complicated jigsaw puzzle with everyone scrambling to put the pieces in place.

Less than a month after a bloody revolution ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, new leaders face mounting problems as they try to build democracy and reshape a shattered economy.

"They face a lot of a job to start democracy. People are asking, 'What is democracy? How does it work?'" a senior Western diplomat said.

"The economy is very bad," he added. "They are practically starting from scratch again and are hoping to get through the winter without difficulties."

The Soviet Union and Western countries have offered assistance and co-operation, but hard times still lie ahead.

Romanian and Western analysts warn that the country faces a bad bout of inflation as a "cold wind of the market place" blows through the economy.

Many factories are reported at a standstill with workers' pay due — raising the prospect of the government printing money to cover costs.

Prime Minister Petre Roman described the economy as

the weekend as disaster, and there is a serious energy crisis.

Romanians were badly shaken by a noisy demonstration in central Bucharest last Friday during which the ruling National Salvation Front caved in to mob rule, outlawing the Communist Party and promising a referendum on capital punishment which it abolished on January 1.

Interim President Ion Iliescu announced only 24 hours later that the death penalty and the future of the party would be up to a plebiscite on January 28.

The abrupt about-face reinforced fears that the front was failing to come to grips with the country's problems.

The date for the country's first free elections in 43 years is also in doubt. The front pledged them for April, but they could be put off until September at the request of fledgling political parties seeking more time to organise.

Six political parties have been registered, ranging from the National Peasants' Party founded in 1868 and the Liberal Party formed 20 years earlier, to a modern ecologists party. At least three more are being processed.

The highest authority is now the 151-member council

UN to stop EEC meals for tots

AMMAN, Jan 17. (Reuter): Palestinian refugees in Jordan are protesting about a UN decision to stop distributing extra meals from the European Economic Community to almost 10,000 youngsters.

They say the move is "void of reason and wisdom" and with Jordan suffering an economic recession will have "very grave consequences (for) the health standards of the beneficiaries."

Some 9,500 Palestinian children aged three to five get a sandwich a day and a hot meal a week from Unrwa, the UN relief and works agency.

The European Economic Community don-

ates the food, worth two million dollars a year. Unrwa spends \$700,000 to prepare and distribute it. The food and money will still be used to aid Palestinians, but not necessarily in Jordan.

Ele Saaf, Unrwa director in Jordan, told a news conference on Wednesday: "Criticism from the refugees was expected."

A survey by Unrwa and the World Health Organisation two years ago found no malnutrition in Jordan or among the 900,000 registered Palestinian refugees, including up to 250,000 living in camps, he said.

The meals-for-toddlers approach will be phased out this year and replaced with a target

programme providing food in needy cases spotted by medical workers.

A committee representing refugees has written to Unrwa's Vienna-based commissioner-general Giorgio Giacomelli complaining about the decision.

Abdel Aziz Saeq, secretary of the committee, told Reuters: "It seems to me that all this is pressures being practised on us for political ends." He did not elaborate.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, said in a statement Unrwa's move could be a first step towards ending services to Palestinian refugees.

Peres-Mubarak talks next week

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (Reuter): Israel, stung by a key senator's proposal to cut US aid, announced new diplomatic moves today to revive Middle East peace efforts after weeks of stalling.

Government officials said Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, excluded from Israeli diplomacy for several months because he was considered too dovish, would meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo next week to try to arrange Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The meeting, scheduled for Jan 24, will be the first top-level encounter between Israeli and Egyptian officials since Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with Mubarak in Cairo in September.

Peres spokesman Avi Gil said the Middle East peace process will be at the top of the agenda. He would not elaborate, saying only "when you're in Egypt, you don't just talk about the pyramids."

Gil said Peres, finance minister and leader of the center-left Labour party, had co-ordinated the visit with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of the right-wing Likud Bloc.

In a related development, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted US Secretary of State James Baker as saying a trilateral meeting between Baker and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel could take place in Washington by the end of February.

The Israeli officials reacted with apprehension to a proposal from Republican senator minority leader Robert Dole to cut aid to Israel and four other countries by five per cent and divert the funds to help new democracies in Eastern Europe.

Israel, with a population of only 4.3 million, is the world's biggest recipient of US aid, currently running at \$3 billion a year. It would stand to lose \$150 million if Dole's proposal passed.

Diplomats said the proposal came at a time when the Bush administration was impatient with Israeli belligerence over Secretary of State James Baker's plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has demanded US guarantees that the PLO will not be involved, directly or indirectly, in the peace process and that talks will be limited to procedures for elections in the occupied territories.

Arafat slams Shamir's claim

BAGHDAD, Jan 17. (Agencies): Yasser Arafat said today Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that Israel must retain the West Bank and Gaza Strip to settle Jews from the Soviet Union was "racist and expansionist."

The PLO chairman said Shamir's claim on the status of the occupied territories poses a threat to Palestinians, Arabs and the international community.

"We (the Palestinians) are going on with our resistance to the Israeli occupation ... but it is a challenge to all Arabs which we should confront," Arafat said.

Shamir declared on Monday that Israel needs to retain the West Bank and Gaza, the focal points of the Middle East conflict, to settle an influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

"It will make no difference for me whether I struggle against three million Israelis or four ... but Arabs should now feel the real threat of establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates," he said.

Arafat claimed Shamir's latest statement and his rejection of a PLO role in peace talks reflect a crisis in Israeli policy toward peace efforts in the Middle East.

"Shamir is swimming against the tide of history."

■ The US State Department said yesterday it asked Israel to explain Shamir's reported comment that the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should be used to settle Jews from the Soviet Union.

Anti-US strike in held areas

Israeli troops kill Palestinian boy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (AP): A 19-year-old Palestinian died today of gunshot wounds from an earlier clash with Israeli troops, and Palestinians staged a general strike to protest what they perceive as anti-Arab US policies.

Yousef Hatem Shabsha of the West Bank village of Husan near Bethlehem died at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem after being shot in the head and back during a clash last night, Arab reports said.

An army official confirmed the death and said the circumstances were under investigation.

The death brought to 648 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the 25-month

In the United States, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin cut short a visit to California and rushed to Washington to prepare for talks with Bush administration leaders.

Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian vigilantes have killed 170 fellow Arabs suspected of co-operating with Israel. Forty-three Israelis have died, as well.

Also today, police commissioner David Krauss ordered a policeman removed from his post for unnecessary use of force during a peace rally in Jerusalem last month, police spokesman Uzi Sandori said.

Krauss made the decision after viewing film of police dispersing a demonstrators who formed a "human chain" around Jerusalem's old city on Dec 30.

Israel radio said the film showed the policeman violently beating peace activists with a billy club.

More than 50 people were injured in the melee. The European Economic Community and peace activists criticised police for using "unjustified" violence during the demonstration.

At the time, police said officers took action only after outlawed PLO flags were waved and stones buried at police.

Throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, stores were shut and transportation came to a halt as Palestinians followed a strike call by the PLO-backed unified national leadership of the uprising.

Israeli officials said he would fight any effort to cut aid, arguing that the Arab military threat was unchanged and Israel faced big extra costs to absorb a wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

In a speech in Los Angeles, Rabin said: "The Soviet Union has not changed its policy of supplying arms to three radical Arab countries — Iraq, Syria and Libya.

reunification talks without consulting and obtaining the consent of the Turkish Cypriots.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur told reporters at his weekly briefing "it was a great mistake to overlook the views of the Turkish side and the real conditions of Cyprus." (AP)

Rebels repulse offensive: Rebels in northern Ethiopia said on Wednesday that they had repulsed a two-pronged government offensive in Wollo province.

The clandestine radio of the Rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces had blocked an army attempt to break through the frontlines at Hayk and Kutan, 35 km (20 miles) north of the provincial capital Dessie last Sunday. (Reuter)

Call for Cyprus talks regretted: Turkey said Wednesday it regretted that the United Nations secretary-general had called for Cyprus

Soviets giving arms to Arabs

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17. (Reuter): The spirit of glasnost has not stopped the Soviet Union supplying the latest types of MIG fighters and other weapons to Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria and Libya, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

"We estimate Arab countries are spending \$40 billion a year on arms supplies," Rabin said. "The arms race goes on without change."

Rabin, who will have talks with US Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and other US officials in Washington during the next two days, did not say whether he would ask for more US arms supplies.

But Rabin, who has refused to reveal his agenda for his Washington talks, told a luncheon given by a civic group that Israel believes the Soviet Union and also the United States are showing less and less tendency to try to impose their will on the Middle East by force.

"The Soviet Union knows Syria alone is not a military match for Israel and it does not want to use its force to intervene in the conflicts," Rabin said. "The United States is more careful about taking initiatives; it is not sure will bring results."

Efforts to end conflicts between Israel and Arab countries must be carried on the shoulders of the parties to the conflicts, he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid is visiting Washington this week and Israeli officials have said they would welcome a meeting between the two ministers on stalled Middle East peace talks.

Rabin called for patience in trying to solve Middle East conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

"Only then will the peace process be expanded beyond the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and we will see the beginning of peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians," he said.

Israel has asked for assurances the PLO will not provide members of a Palestinian negotiating team and that preparatory talks will be limited to procedures for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Christian general ordered Ad-Diyar, based in the Christian enclave controlled by his troops, to halt publication while its editor-in-chief and a senior editor were questioned.

"I will abide by the law and seven days are enough to think about the matter," Editor-in-Chief Charles Ayoub told Reuters. "Maybe they can convince me to change or maybe I can convince them."

Aoun's order accused the independent daily of endangering Lebanon's safety and violating national sovereignty by identifying Hirawi as head of state.

Hirawi, who claims he is the legitimate government and holds that Hirawi was illegally elected by Christian and Muslim parliamentarians in November, ordered the media yesterday to stop identifying Hirawi as President and Selim Hoss as his Prime Minister.

"He uses the law as an excuse and he is the first one to disobey it," Hoss told editors. "He praises freedom and is the first to stay it ... this man now forms a danger to the nation and the people."

The Hirawi government, which has wide international recognition, launched a bureaucratic and economic war in December to smash Aoun's hold on Christian East Beirut and to reunite Lebanon under its authority.

Diplomatic sources said Aoun had switched tactics and was no longer just trying to react to the measures taken against him by Hirawi but had been forced on the offensive even in the enclave.

"With all our respect, we are not abiding by the decision," said a front-page editorial in today's Ad-Diyar, the sole East Beirut newspaper to break the ban.

"We have no militia, no troops, no foreign protection ... we are only defending our small house, our pen is our only weapon," it added.

Lebanon has generally had the freest press in the Middle East despite more than 14 years of civil war.

Aoun's troops set up new checkpoints and increased patrols in East Beirut today. It was unclear if the measures were related to the row over the media or part of a crackdown on crime.



The wife and child of Palestinian Ahmad Badran, sit in the rubble of their home destroyed under Israeli order for being illegally constructed. (Reuter wirephoto)

Iran frees Iraqi PoWs

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official said yesterday that Iraq would match the Iranian step and release 50 Iranian prisoners.

The Foreign Ministry official said the Iranian PoWs would probably be released on Thursday, and they would be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross for repatriation.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein earlier this month proposed an immediate exchange of PoWs with Iran, particularly those who were disabled or wounded, as part of a peace initiative that also calls for direct talks between Iraq and Iran.

Iraq has said it would release 50 Iranian prisoners of war if the Iranian government officially requests so. (UPI)

Libya seeks Cairo's help to turn its deserts green

CAIRO, Jan 17. (UPI): Libya has proposed financing colonies of millions of Egyptian peasant farmers to settle in the southern deserts, if the two sides further coordinate strained ties with Cairo, Libya and Egyptian officials said yesterday.

The Libyan proposal also foresees joint multi-million dollar oil refining projects with Cairo, Libya and Egyptian officials said yesterday.

The proposal follows talks between Libya leader Col Muammar Khaddafi and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak late last year, as part of ongoing efforts to improve ties between the two neighbours.

Mohammad Lotfi Farhad, Libya's planning minister who is currently on a visit to Cairo, told the Egyptian semi-official daily, Al Ahram that his country was willing to settle millions of Egyptian fellahs — the peasant farmers who form 60 per cent of Egypt's population — in Libya's southern deserts.

Farhad said the scheme involved exploiting Libya's billion-dollar man-made "great artificial river project," to bring water from Sebha, in southern Libya, to the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Khaddafi began the scheme in the late 1980s as part of a plan to turn Libya "green." But the project has yet to be completed.

Farhad said Egyptian farmers could exploit the subterranean waters of lakes in Libya's southern Uweinat region to make the plan work. Libya has no perennial rivers, and most water is obtained from shallow wells that tap vast underground water-bearing rock layers.

The Libyan minister said the aim of the joint project with Egypt was to "cultivate a minimum strategic supply of basic food commodities, particularly wheat," and to make use of the relative advantages each economy had at its disposal.

Egyptian government sources said the plan would have to be examined and had no potential.

16 killed in Istanbul fire

ANKARA, Jan 17. (Reuter): The number of victims of an office block blaze in Istanbul rose to 16 today after eight more bodies were discovered in the charred rooms, the state-run radio reported.

It was unclear if the measures were related to the row over the media or part of a crackdown on crime.

The GAP project is not a single economic and social development.

"General and special measures have been taken to protect this project against terrorist action," Hayri Kozakcioglu, regional governor in southeast Turkey, told Reuters.

Three dams on the Euphrates, which flows into Syria and Iraq, form the core of the \$11-billion southeast Anatolian project (GAP) to pump fresh life into remote rebel-haunted areas suffering from high unemployment and economic problems.

"The GAP project is not a single economic and social development. It is in fact a battle to conquer the east," Kozakcioglu quoted the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) as saying.

More than 2,000 people, including civilians and Turkish soldiers, have been killed since 1984 when the PKK launched its violent campaign in border areas near Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"GAP is a project that will make an important contribution not only to the regional economy but also to the national economy and will do a big blow to terrorist activities," Kozakcioglu said in written answers to questions.

Turkey protects dam

Measures against Kurdish attacks

ANKARA, Jan 17. (Reuter): Turkey has enforced strict security at dams on the Euphrates river to deter attacks by separatist Kurdish rebels who see them as a major threat to their struggle.

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Commanders leaders based across the border in Pakistan admit that some of their

fighters in Afghanistan have struck deals with Najib's government, but they say the majority are still fighting.

Azim Nasser Zia, spokesman for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of the seven Pakistan-based mujahideen factions, scoffed at Sameer's claims.

"Maybe 70 per cent of the mujahideen have taken Najib's arms and money — but only to use it against him," he said.

Kahul officials claim that 168 "armed opposition groups" have joined Najib

BUSINESS & FINANCE

American oil output declines

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (AP): US domestic oil production in 1989 took the steepest year fall in history, and petroleum imports rose to a 10-year high, the industry said today.

The American Petroleum Institute, the trade association of the major oil companies, also said that while US oil consumption increased only slightly, imports rose to 46 per cent of total supplies. That was the second-highest level on record.

The figures confirm a continued decline of the domestic oil industry and are expected to add that to a debate in congress this year over whether exploration and production companies should get new tax breaks to stimulate drilling activity.

The Bush administration has argued that declining US oil production and increasing reliance on foreign producers is undermining national energy security.

In its year-end report, the Petroleum Institute said US crude oil production averaged 7.6 million barrels a day in 1989. That was the lowest in 26 years and a decline of 533,000 barrels per day, or 6.6 per cent, from the 1988 total.

Minister fails to convince
West Germany

BERLIN, Jan 17, (Reuters): East German Economics Minister Christa Lüft smiled for cameras and shook plenty of hands during her first official visit to West Germany, but went home today leaving many here unconvinced of her communist-led government's will to reform.

Lüft spent two days meeting Bonn officials and business leaders in a bid to improve trade and investment between the two countries. But some politicians and businessmen were sceptical.

"I have the impression you're still holding the reigns too tightly," Joerg Mittelstaedt, Schiedt, told *Die Tageszeitung* on Monday.

West German business leaders are not sure that Lüft really wants to free East Germany's economy from the shackles of centralised planning.

They are annoyed by East Berlin's insistence on limiting foreign stakes in East German firms to 49 per cent, unless the investing company is small or bringing considerable technological know-how with it.

KD deposits rates steady

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank rates were steady today, with activity in the fixed periods picking up after one bank borrowed large amounts of six-month and one-year deposits.

Dealers said short-dated funds were well-bid due to tight liquidity seen in the past week. Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next all dealt at Tuesday's levels of 8-8.8 per cent.

Strikes close Ford plants

LONDON, Jan 17, (AP): Strikes by thousands of auto workers protesting 10.2 per cent pay rise offer have halted production at three of Ford's British plants, the company said today.

As talks resumed between unions and Ford Motor Co. Ltd., about 9,000 employees downed tools for 24 hours or commenced indefinite strikes begin Monday.

Ford said it responded by laying off more than another 10,500 employees because work couldn't continue.

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Nazer to Asia to discuss downstream operations

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 17, (AP): Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, Hisham Nazer, started a three-nation Asian tour today covering Indonesia, South Korea and Japan in quest of joint ventures in downstream operations, industry sources reported.

The tour falls within the new policy of the kingdom to diversify into foreign downstream ventures to guarantee an integrated industry and long-term outlets for its oil exports.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporting nation. Its first move toward downstream operations was in 1988 in the United States where Saudi Aramco, the state-owned ruling oil company, now operates three refineries and distributes oil to 10,000 stations.

Nazer lately affirmed that the kingdom was looking for similar stakes in Western Europe and Asia. Kuwait has already made its mark as a leading investor in foreign downstream opera-

tions around the world.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that Nazer would be considering Saudi participation in oil refining and marketing operations in Japan within two to three years, when that Asian giant industrial nation has laid out its new rules for foreign ventures.

Japan energy officials were in the kingdom at the outset of the year for initial probing of the prospects availa-

ble in their country.

Recent reports alluded to a Tokyo demand for a quid pro quo in the form of participation in Saudi exploitation of its oil fields, but that has been denied by Riyadh.

The sources said Nazer will also discuss participation in refining and marketing operations during his visits to Indonesia and South Korea.

Nazer told the Saudi newspaper Al

Riyadh earlier in the day that he himself was not going to sign any deals on his tour because it was the government policy to leave that to the producing and consuming companies.

He said his talks in the three Asian countries would "cover the oil supply of their countries in line with the method the kingdom uses to deal with the market, which is direct sales to the consumer on the world market."

Nazer affirmed keenness of the king-

dom to maintain the flow of oil to consumers without severe fluctuation in prices which would be detrimental to both sides, he said.

"It is in interest of those consuming states to buy directly from the kingdom, a matter that eases the difficulties and expenses of the oil to the consumer needs," he said. "It is the kingdom's policy to avert dealing short-term because that is harmful to the market in the long-term."

Algeria to boost output

Abu Dhabi oil firm to expand capacity

ABU DHABI, Jan 17, (Reuters): Abu Dhabi Co for onshore oil operations (Adco), producer of sweet Murban crude oil, will expand the capacity of its Bah field and tanker loading terminal at Jebel Dhanna, Adco general manager Terry Adams said.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf last November said Abu Dhabi emirate would raise Bah field capacity to 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) from a current sustainable 40,000-50,000 bpd.

There are immediate plans for major expansion at Jebel Dhanna and Bah field and there will be significant investment in all our other fields to upgrade and "improve" our facilities," Adams said in a speech on Monday. He gave no figures however.

The text of Adams' speech to company employees was made available to Reuters today.

Adco is 60 per cent owned by Abu Dhabi National Co.

(Adnoc) 9.5 per cent each by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, British Petroleum Co Plc and Total Compagnie Francaise Des Petroles with 4.75 per cent each held by Mobil and Exxon Corp, and two per cent by Partex Corp.

Adco's five onshore oilfields have a combined output capacity of over one million bpd, but not on a sustainable basis, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

Abu Dhabi plans to raise total output capacity at these five to over 1.5 million bpd in the next five years, the sources said. The Bah field was reopened last year and "then sustain the rate."

In the short term, the capacity of producing fields would be increased and in the long term, reserves would be renewed so Algeria remained a producer for a long time to come, he said.

On the marketing of gas, he said Sonatrach would diversify its gas sale outlets and open new markets to boost exports substantially by the end of the decade.

Asked how he saw the world oil market in 1990, Bouhafsi said demand would grow in the United States and the Pacific, but Opec had to regulate production throughout the year and hold to its \$18 per barrel price minimum.

Move to boycott L'Oréal

Campaign launched

PARIS, Jan 17, (Reuters): Animal rights activists called today for a nationwide boycott of L'Oréal, the cosmetics' leading "cruelty-free" products against its use of animals to test new products.

The campaigners, led by the US group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), plan protests outside L'Oréal factories in Europe and the United States to lobby the company to stop laboratory tests on animals.

The groups, from West Germany, Italy, France, Britain and the United States, have already written to department stores and chemists asking them to stop selling L'Oréal goods.

L'Oréal said in a statement it was now testing only five per cent of its new products on animals, compared with 50 per cent five years ago.

The group added that it had dropped controversial techniques such as the *drâize* method, in which corrosive substances are poured into rabbits' eyes and left for several weeks to gauge the effect on humans.

More than one million gaudily-coloured posters will be circulated bearing the photograph of a mutilated rabbit over the caption: "What L'Oréal does to animals makes your hair stand on end."

"We'll stick like glue until they change," said Susan

Richardson, executive for Peta which says it has already forced the Revlon and Avon companies to ban animal experiments.

Rich is determined to strip away the sophisticated image of the billion-dollar L'Oréal group, which produces expensive and world-renowned perfumes such as Lancome, Guy Laroche and Cacharel.

"There's a hidden ingredient in every L'Oréal product, and that's animal suffering and animal death," she told a news conference in Paris where the campaign against the French-based company was being launched.

L'Oréal, which had a turnover of nearly 21 billion francs (\$3.7 billion) in the first nine months of 1989, stressed it only carried out experiments that were absolutely necessary for consumer safety.

"We are constantly looking for ways to cut back on animal experiments, but our main concern is that our customers should be able to use our products with safety," said L'Oréal spokesman Jacques Gaigne.

But Peta, which believes most of the experiments are carried out for legal rather than safety reasons, says it can prove the group still uses cruel and outdated methods which cause unnecessary suffering to thousands of animals each year.

Gulf exports drive planned

Finns plan trade centre

FINLAND is to make a major export thrust into the Gulf region. The campaign was outlined by Jyrki Louhisoja of the Finnish Foreign Trade Association at a press conference in Dubai yesterday.

It includes the possibility of establishing a permanent trade centre in the region.

"We also expect more Finnish manufacturers to set up in the Jebel Ali Free Zone where a Finnish fertiliser factory is already operating," said Louhisoja.

The press conference came on the final day of Middle East Electricity '90—the premier exhibition for the Gulf's power industry at which a seven-strong Finnish delegation has been exhibiting.

"We are becoming more involved in the region," said Rainer Wegelin, Finland's Consul in the UAE. "We have been very actively promoting the Jebel Ali Free Zone in Finland and we expect more companies to establish plants there."

Middle East Electricity '90 was the first exhibition at which an official Finnish delegation had taken part. Six out of the seven exhibitors were attending the show for the first time.

"We have been very pleased with the response," said Gun Hede, export manager for first-time

exhibitor, Ensto Lighting. "We believe we can do business in the region and are now planning to establish an agency network."

Finland already sells Dhs 1.1 billion worth of products to the Middle East annually but Louhisoja predicts the figure could rise substantially over the next few years.

"One of our main export strengths is industrial and hi-tech equipment and we believe there is tremendous potential in this region," he added.

Another delegation member, Nokia Cables has recently appointed an agent in Abu Dhabi. Part of Finland's largest private corporation, the company has Middle East offices in Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

It is currently supplying materials and technical expertise to the Egyptian state-owned contractor, Eletro, for a major electrification project in North Yemen.

Meanwhile, Wartsila Diesel, the world's largest manufacturer of medium-speed engines, has been contracted to supply generating sets for two large Saudi Arabian water projects. The company is also currently participating in several import regional tenders.

Five months later a storage tank broke its moorings at Royal Dutch/Shell's Fujairah field, and a blast last April shut a key Shell pumping platform for six weeks.

Capel said oil output in Norway, Britain's main North Sea rival, climbed 30 per cent last year to a record 1.52 million bpd.

The rise stemmed from a full

year's production at Norsk Hydro A/S' Oseberg field and a steady increase at Gulftak field, operated by state-owned StatOil.

The council has now a small

secretariat with Egyptian economist professor Helmi Nasser as its 5-year head.

The presidency of the council will rotate between the four countries. Iraq has held the chair since February and will hand it over to Jordan.

Ramadan said the success of the

council in implementing its objectives will set a good example for other Arab groups to follow suit.

The Gulf states and the Northern African states have also formed regional councils.

No final decision was made from the meeting.

Egyptian authorities have been negotiating for over a year to get loan from the fund.

From a loan, considered a sign of international confidence in the borrower, would open the way for a new agreement between Egypt and its creditors to postpone interest and repayments on the debt Egypt already owes them.

Postponements were agreed in 1987 and 1988.

The World Bank, the fund's sister organisation, put Egypt's debt at the end of 1988 at \$49.97 billion.

Egypt also owed \$2.1 billion in overdue interest.

By way of comparison, Argentina owed \$58.9 billion and Nigeria \$30.7 billion.

One reason that Egypt has failed to keep up with its debts is that it

spends more on imports than it earns on exports—\$2.67 billion is more

in 1988. It is helped by more than \$2 billion in aid a year from the United States and additional money from Saudi Arabia.

The Bank said that at least \$37.13 billion of Egypt's debt was lent by governments and by bodies like the World Bank and IMF. Both the bank and the fund are owned by the same 152 countries and have headquarters in Washington.

Gorbachev rumours rankle red-chip market

TOKYO, Jan 17, (AP): In a stock market driven up partly by "red chip" shares, is it any surprise that rumours about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev contribute to nervousness in share prices?

No, say watchers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, where capitalists have been placing some of their gambles on the communists.

This turn of events, unthinkable a few years ago, has its own internal logic. Peace is good for business, especially in Japan, where the defence industry is a small sector of the economy. Gorbachev and US President George Bush made progress at their Malta summit. Eastern European countries are opening their doors to outside business, and Japanese firms with possible deals in Poland, Hungary or the Soviet Union could be winners—the "red chip" stocks.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange rode these two trends in the East bloc to a record high

at the end of 1989. But since then, the key Nikkei stock index has been moving almost exclusively

upward, with a few adverse

rumours but a few adverse

rumours can make a bear market even

more bearish.

The "peace dividend" feeling that

pulled the market up in December was

butressed by a consensus that Japan's

Central Bank would not raise interest rates until after a national election in February. But the bank confounded that consensus by raising the discount rate on Dec. 25, contributing to a loss of momentum. Then the dollar has been strong against the yen, which could boost inflation in Japan, another confidence-cutter. Programmed trading can move stock prices and so can bond prices.

Stock exchanges are hives of rumours. A few years ago, the London markets

sometimes took stock dips over rumours

that President Ronald Reagan had died.

Then there were rumours about which

Romania to search for foreign loans

BUCHAREST, Jan 17. (Reuter): Romania is calculating its foreign borrowing needs and expects to approach Japan and the United States first, National Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu said today.

The country's new leaders had reversed the rigid no-loan policy of the ousted communist regime and ordered a group of experts who work out the volume of credits and loans needed to get the economy going, he said.

"The deadline is the end of January ... I await their report but I have asked them to seek contacts already starting with Japan and the United States," Stanculescu, an army general, told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview.

In answer to other questions, he ruled out an early devaluation of the Lei currency, confirmed that late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had wiped out Romania's external debt but said he was not yet able to quantify the country's reserves.

The provisional government in power since Ceausescu's fall on December 22 says it has inherited an economic disaster.

It has announced a massive import programme over the next three months to meet the targets it has set — more food for Romania's 23 million people and energy to get industry going.

"Our priorities are people first and equipment second. Before (under Ceausescu) we said we were only interested in dollars or oil but now we want something to put on the dining table," Stanculescu said.

His new ministry is the result of a fusion of the old state planning committee and the ministry of technical and material supply — two temples of the old regime's central planning orthodoxy.

Stanculescu, a third generation military officer, was a deputy defence minister in charge of military production and procurement before last December's uprising.

IBM earnings sharply down

NEW YORK, Jan 17. (Reuter): International Business Machines Corp, the world's largest computer company, today reported sharply lower fourth-quarter and yearly earnings for 1989 due to restructuring and job cut costs.

The restructuring charge of \$2.4 billion, or 2.58 a share, was \$100 million more than the company indicated last month, but the earnings figures were below expectations, even accounting for the higher restructuring cost.

For the quarter, the Armonk, N.Y.-based computer giant said earnings fell to \$591 million, or \$1.04 a share, from \$2.35 billion, or \$3.97 a share. Revenues rose to \$20.46 billion from \$20.00 billion in the 1988 period.

IBM has been hit by slack demand for computers, both in the United States and, increasingly, in foreign markets. The slowdown was evident in the fourth quarter, when sales barely moved higher.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17 (Kuwait)		Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.	
Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.291130	0.292228	
Sterling	0.482111	0.485477	
DM	0.171505	0.173030	
Sw. Fr.	0.171505	0.173030	
FF	0.050412	0.050699	
Lira	0.0002300	0.0002320	
Jap. yen	0.001999	0.002012	
Bal. din	0.772023	0.775690	
UAE Dir.	0.079240	0.079596	
S. riyal	0.077593	0.078232	
Q. riyal	0.079332	0.080340	
O. riyal	0.753837	0.759563	

Interest rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17 (Kuwait)			Following are the interest rates of local financial institutions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.			
Period	Bid	Offered	Period	Bid	Offered	
1 month	8.5/16	8.9/16	1 month	8.5/16	8.9/16	
3 months	8.5/16	8.9/16	6 months	8.7/16	9.1/16	
1 year	8.8/16	9.1/16				

Hungarian reform policies praised

Kaifu gives Hungary \$500m credit

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Jan 17 (AP): Japan is prepared to offer Hungary credit worth \$500 million, plus technology and managerial expertise to help with its economic reforms, a Japanese official said today.

Shigeo Takenaka made the announcement after an initial round of talks between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his Hungarian counterpart Miklos Nemeth.

Kaifu arrived in Budapest Monday on the last leg of a seven-nation 10-day tour of Europe. He returns home today.

The credit package from the Japanese Export-Import Bank is to be distributed over three years, Takenaka said. The terms of the credits are to be discussed later.

However, the state MTI news agency said part of the Japanese credit is to be linked to credits from the International Monetary

Fund for economic restructuring.

Hungary's parliament last month adopted a series of austerity measures demanded by the IMF. They include reducing state subsidies, allowing some private ownership and introducing market forces into the ailing economy.

Hungary has a foreign debt of some \$20 billion — the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

When the measures took effect this month, prices more than doubled on some consumer items and basic foods. On Monday evening, as Kaifu was attending a gala dinner with Nemeth in Budapest's ornate parliament building, some 1,000 people protested the price hikes.

Takenaka, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Japanese government was also

prepared to extend trade and investment guarantees of between \$200 million to 400 million.

Kaifu said Tuesday the Japanese government hoped to transfer expertise and technology to Hungary and announced that over the next five years his country would spend \$25 million training Hungarian and Polish economists, managers and environmentalists, MTI reported.

Also Tuesday, a contract was signed with Toyota to supply Hungary with several thousand ambulances over the next ten years, MTI said.

Last week Suzuki Motor Co., Japan's largest sub-compact car producer, reached agreement to set up a plant near Budapest, in what would be the sixth joint venture between the two countries.

Bankers urged to aid bank reforms

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 18-19, 1990

Volcker urges China to keep economy open

BEIJING, Jan 17. (Agencies): Former US Federal Reserve board chairman Paul A. Volcker urged China today to keep its economy open to the world.

Volcker, guest speaker at a three-day conference on central banking, said he hoped China's open-door policy would continue because international cooperation in monetary matters was "irrelevant if you have a closed society."

The conference, sponsored by the UN Development Programme, the International Monetary Fund and the People's Bank of China, focused on such areas as the role of monetary policy and the functions of the Central

Bank.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the People's Bank, China's central bank, told a news conference that one thing learned from Volcker and other participants was "how to resist strong demand for funds from local governments and enterprises."

Volcker, head of the Fed from 1979 to 1987, was known for sticking to a tight money policy in the face of strong political pressure in a winning battle against inflation.

In late 1988, China began restricting credit and took other austerity measures in a drive to bring inflation

under control.

The government succeeded by late 1989 in bringing the inflation rate under 10 per cent, compared to 30 per cent a year earlier, but at a cost of rising unemployment and thousands of factories having to shut down or reduce production because of lack of operating funds.

"In the long run, inflation is destructive for growth and unemployment," said Volcker, who now teaches economic policy at Princeton University.

"There's a great deal to be said for giving priority to stabilizing prices."

Chen acknowledged that under the current "retrenchment" policies, the

government has given priority to price stability rather than pricing reforms. Western economists say are crucial for a modern, market-oriented economy.

"But that doesn't mean we have stopped price reform," Chen said, pointing to new pricing industries in the coal and transport sectors.

Richard D. Erb, deputy managing director of the IMF, also praised China for its ability to rein in inflation, saying there were very few nations that have achieved China's level of growth "without having severe deterioration in terms of inflation."

Erb said the speakers at the con-

ference, including Central Bank of Mexico governor Miguel Macera and former National Bank of Belgium governor Jean Godeaux, stressed the need for a central bank with autonomy and accountability and a commitment to competition among financial markets and price and wage flexibility.

China has called on top Western central bankers to help reform its banking system and give new muscle to its central bank, often bullied by other arms of the government.

Chinese bankers and economists have long complained that the People's Bank of China, the central bank of

China, had too little power and was unable to deflect pressure from local governments to ease credit controls.

They have argued that without the power to deny credit, the central bank does little more than print money to cover government deficits.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the central bank, said he expected the bank to expand its powers in future and that Western advice was helpful.

"We believe there are things we can borrow," he said. "The People's Bank of China will continue to be strengthened along with economic development."

Iraq ready to open air links

Flights to Tehran likely to start soon

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 17. (AP): Interior Minister Samir Mohamed Abdel-Wahab said today preparations have been completed for starting daily flights to Tehran and opening the land borders with Iran for visits by Muslim pilgrims.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted an unidentified Iraqi Airways official as saying four jumbo jets were ready to depart for Tehran to transport as many as 1,500 Iranian pilgrims daily to Iraq as soon as Iran agreed.

Ahmed-Wahab said in an interview with the magazine Alef Ba that the decision for the air and land links was based on a proposal by President Saddam Hussein last month.

Saddam proposed new direct talks to revive the stalled peace negotiations with Iran, exchange of prisoners of war, the opening of fair links between Baghdad and Tehran and visits by pilgrims to religious sites in both countries.

Tehran, which insists on talks under United Nations auspices.

called the proposal a "deception", and said it fell short for not calling for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Iranian territory captured during the 8-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

Abdel-Wahab said that in addition to the air link, preparations have also been completed to assist prospective Iranian pilgrims travelling by road to religious sites in Iraq.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has also prepared special "comfortable accommodation" for the pilgrims, he said.

Meanwhile 50 sick and disabled Iraqi POWs released by Iran arrived in Baghdad today aboard a plane chartered by the International Red Cross.

Akram Al Witr, a Foreign Ministry legal adviser, said Iraq would reciprocate by releasing 20 Iranian sick and disabled prisoners on Thursday.

There was no explanation why Iraq would not release an equal number of prisoners.

ICRC officials said the char-

OIC economy ministers plan meeting

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 17. (AP): Finance and economy ministers of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference will meet in Algiers on Feb 28 to review means of enhanced inter-Islamic economic and financial co-operation, OIC officials announced today.

The two-day meeting will be the 14th annual conference of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank which, since being established in Jeddah in 1975, provided member states with finances close to \$10 billion.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,000 by Iraq. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold about 100,000 POWs between them.

The Red Cross secured an agreement to repatriate all prisoners immediately after a UN-sponsored ceasefire halted the Gulf war on Aug 20, 1988.

But the deal collapsed after the exchange of only 400 disabled and wounded prisoners with both sides accusing each other of falsifying the number of captives seeking asylum.

UN-sponsored peace talks launched a few days after the ceasefire have been deadlocked mainly over the troop withdrawal issue and Iraq's demand for the demarcation of the border to give it sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the sea.

ICRC officials said the char-

terised airliner that brought the Iraqi prisoners would remain in Baghdad to fly the released Iranians to Tehran.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,000 by Iraq. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold about 100,000 POWs between them.

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Imports decline

Trade deficit widens

US industrial output soars

WASHINGTON, Jan 17. (AP): The US foreign trade deficit widened in November to \$10.5 billion, its worst showing in 11 months, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that while imports declined by \$593 million to \$40.69 billion, US exports dropped a larger \$843 million to \$30.19 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports.

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EVENTS

Panasonic AV and OV exhibition

THE Panasonic AV and OV Convention was held at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Tuesday as part of a four-day exhibition organised by National agent: Easa Husain Al Yousifi and Matsushita Electric Industrial Company Ltd., Japan.

On display are dubbing systems, editing systems and CCTV systems, cordless phones, facsimile machines and other audio-visual equipment and office machines.

"We wanted to introduce efficient audio-visual products and office automation devices and promote them for improved performance in offices," said Hirozo Yamamoto, Matsushita's senior assistant manager for system equipment sales for Asia and the Middle East.

Yamamoto said the convention is part his company's policy to introduce and promote their products on world markets.

Commenting on his company's policy of transfer of technology, Yamamoto said Matsushita has about 100 foreign production units. It shifted production of certain items to offshore factories in Thailand and Malaysia, he said, to share technical know-how. Asked if there might be a similar programme for the Gulf, Yamamoto said: "Not at the moment."

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar *Arabic and European Arts*. The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Arts, is being held on Sunday and Tuesday, 11 and 13 January, 1990, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Iraqi ceramics An exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints. THE Sultan Gallery extends its Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Singers THE Kuwait Singers will begin rehearsals for its May concert on Monday, January 22, at 7:30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. New members are most welcome. For more information contact: 4884134 or 3900922.

Raga Sharqi INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raga Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Kuwait Little Theatre Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.



PC Fahaheel branch office servers

The Pakistan People's Club Fahaheel branch selected the officia bearers for the branch at a meeting recently. Dr Riaz Mahesar, PPC's President, and Rafiq Mirza, the General Secretary, attended this function. The nominations were: Jahan Gul (President), Mossa Khan (Senior Vice President), Jamshed (Vice President), Shah Jahan (General Secretary), Mohammed Amil (Jl Secretary), Maz Khan (Press Secretary) and Ibar Khan (Treasurer).

He believes that an automated plant needs to be cost-effective. He said: "Nowadays the emphasis is on automated, high quality products; this must guarantee a certain quantity of production for a project to be economically feasible."

For the moment, Matsushita wants to concentrate on the industries in Southeast Asia. "We have a big commitment in Southeast Asian countries and for the moment, we cannot shift emphasis," said Yamamoto.

The Japanese market has reached a saturation point and is facing fierce competition with relatively inexpensive Korean products. Yamamoto believes the industry has nothing to fear because "not all people buy cheap products."

Yamamoto waves aside claims of competition from such countries as Korea saying: "We believe that we must assist regional countries to develop industry; we are finding a way to co-exist." He said this was one reason for transfer of technology.

Yamamoto said "hard work, discipline and trained, skilled staff and quality products" contributed substantially to the success of his company. Matsushita was named among the first 60 top companies by the US Fortune

magazine. Except the US, the company enjoys the ninth place in the electronics industry.

The National agent in Kuwait, Easa Husain Al Yousifi, said they plan to introduce cordless phones in Kuwait shortly. Yousifi admitted the market for

electronic products was affected by recession but said "Fortunately, (it was) not so bad for us as we have been able to keep our market share." National products enjoy a large percentage of sales in the consumer products market.



S. Itoh: manager

S. Itoh, manager of Matsushita Electric, Kuwait office, also took part in the convention. A large number of invitees attended the Panasonic AV and OV exhibition, which will be open to public, during working hours today and tomorrow.



Hirozo Yamamoto: executive

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Sabah Al Kher news and varieties
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sabah Al Kher news
10.30 Rejat Fi Al Masyada: Arahia serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Redha, Amenea Reza, Mimi Jamal
11.30 The Open Universities: cultural programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher News
12.15 Hewar Wa Nagham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hima and presented by Nervana Idrees

1.00 News summary

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.25 Min Ghair Kalam: variety programme (part 2), presented by Hassan Mustafa

2.15 Discovery: cultural programme (part 3)

3.00 Varieties

3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme

5.00 Bereen: cartoon serial

5.30 Cartoons

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

6.00 Al Fareq Al Aasq: historical serial (part 3

7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by Ministry of Education school activities department

8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local variety programme, prepared by Hassan Awwara and presented by Rasha Majdi

8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mathkoor

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Ghadan Tashreq Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 16)

10.45 Lasio Qatallan: Arabic feature film, starring Fareed Shawqi, Sabreen, Ihsan Al Qalawai

12.20 Thursday late night variety show

1.30 News summary

1.35 The World Today via Satellite

1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown



KTV-2 Friday, 10.00 Roseanne

by Fatema Abdul Wahab
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Island Sons: "Sometimes they are. Z...." A woman surgeon insists her son should become a surgeon. He wants to become a dignitician. Dr Daniel interferes in time...
9.30 The Bill Cosby Show. Rude protests against her parents treatment and presents a petition to be discussed by the family members.
10.00 More Real People. A woman trains parrots how to sing, dance and act. Spido the monkey carries out many home duties, takes care of children... and operates the master...
10.30 Feature Film.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Bernstein Bears. A cartoon series for children

6.30 Walt Disney Movie. "The Swiss Family Robinson". The story of a Swiss family washed by the sea after the wreck of their ship. They have to start their life like primitive men...

8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away. Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.

8.45 Rescue 911. A football player is revived after his heart stopped for 25 minutes, and an injured person is rescued in a remote rocky area, a pilot is rescued his craft's wheel remained inside its body...

9.30 The Weekend Programme.
10.00 Roseanne. A Mall Story.

10.30 The Mystery Wheel. "Sleep Well Pr. Oliver". Devil-worshippers are exploited by their association's founder who used to record their devilish rituals on videotapes and sell the same for excitement seekers...

11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Arabic film
Al Hamsa
Someone to Watch over Me
Drive-in
Revenge of Nerds II
Al Firdous
Malamaal
Fahsheh
Lakhi Badhu
Al Jaha
Tuxedo Warrior
Granda
License to Kill
Salahshahat
Inqilab-e-Puthri
Jeeb
Garibon Ka Daata
Almadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah

Al Hamsa

Someone to Watch over Me

Drive-in

Revenge of Nerds II

Al Firdous

Malamaal

Fahsheh

Lakhi Badhu

Al Jaha

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F.E.D.S

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License to Kill

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Arabic film

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Al Firdous

Malamaal

Fahsheh

Lakhi Badhu

Al Jaha

Tuxedo Warrior

Granda

License to Kill

Salahshahat

F.E.D.S

J

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



MAGAR THE HORRIBLE — John Brown



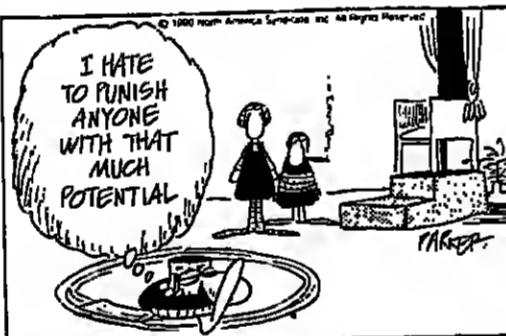
AGATHA CRUMPTIE — Alan Bleasdale



BEETLEBAILEY — Jimmy Swartz



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Harry and Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP

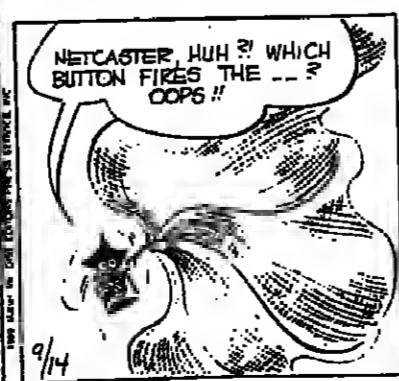


B.C. — By Johnny Hart



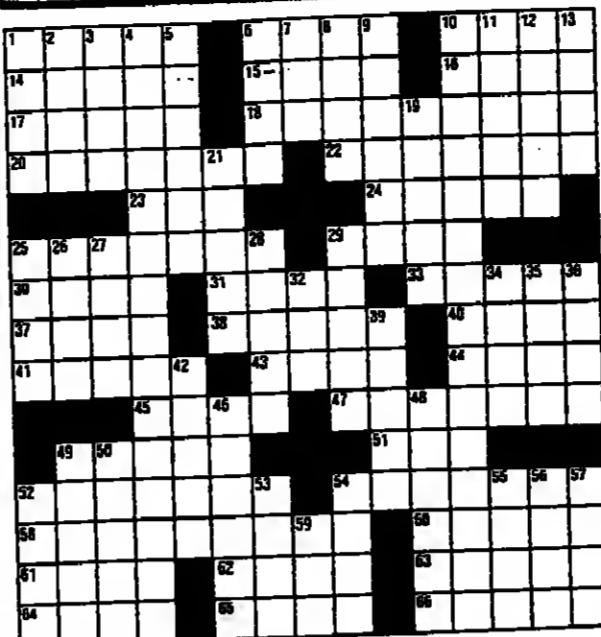
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WHEN THE SALESMAN SHOWS YOU A PAIR OF SHOES WITH BUILT-IN COKE-EATERS.

HE-MAN — By G. Forman & J. Shull



NETCASTER HUH? WHICH BUTTON FIRES THE COPS?

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Polo from Venice
 5 Soufflé ingredients
 10 Unexciting
 14 Men from Manchuria, e.g.
 15 cheerful tune
 16 Brother of Eric
 17 Fence steps
 18 Berlin favorite of 1927
 20 Fall
 22 Adriatic seaport
 23 Little one: Suffix
 24 Brave people, to a Cockney
 25 Pat —, of "Smothers Brothers Comedy Show"
 29 Sentence subject
 30 Canadian prov.
 31 City on the Tevere
 33 Nuisances
 37 Type of moss
 38 Chris of tennis fame
 40 Photo
 41 Cinders
 43 Cunning
 44 Golda
 45 Place for a pigeonhole
 47 Trying experiences
 49 Jeweller's weight
 51 — pro nobis
 52 Egg stones
 54 Fathomless
 58 Lee
 60 Affairs of honor
 61 Cut of meat
 62 Harp's ancestor
 63 Grain disease
 64 Antlered beasts
 65 Strong — ox

DOWN
 1 Manly: Abbr.
 2 Travel agents' org.
 3 "The Making of an American" author
 4 Estimated chances of failure
 5 Tatami and Ryan
 6 Dresden's river
 7 Lesage's Bias
 8 Oversupply
 9 Sound system feature
 10 Test a person
 11 Greet the day
 12 Encounters
 13 Actual being
 19 Pancake topper
 21 Farm implement pioneer
 25 Sobriquet for Hemingway
 26 Stout and porter
 27 Deseret, today

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CATT	ISLES	SLOW
ARROW	SHABIR	NOODE
TARANTULAS	OBOLE	SLY
SLY	ALTO	SWORD
CREE	MAIL	GARES
GARES	BACTERIA	BACTERIA
ILLUS	BURST	OARY
ROBBS	FILES	PIER
ABOUT	ORGs	PANNE
NEMATODE	PARSE	COTS
SPREE	LOCIC	FLU
ALIA	RHINO	TERGOS
LEON	AUDEN	TARE
TATS	GESSO	CUEO

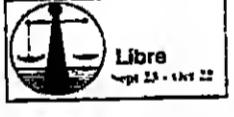
YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19



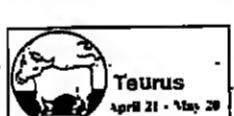
Cancer
June 21 - July 22



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19



Taurus
April 21 - May 20



Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22



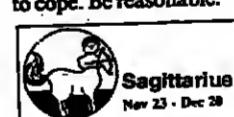
Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Gemini
May 21 - June 20



Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 22



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

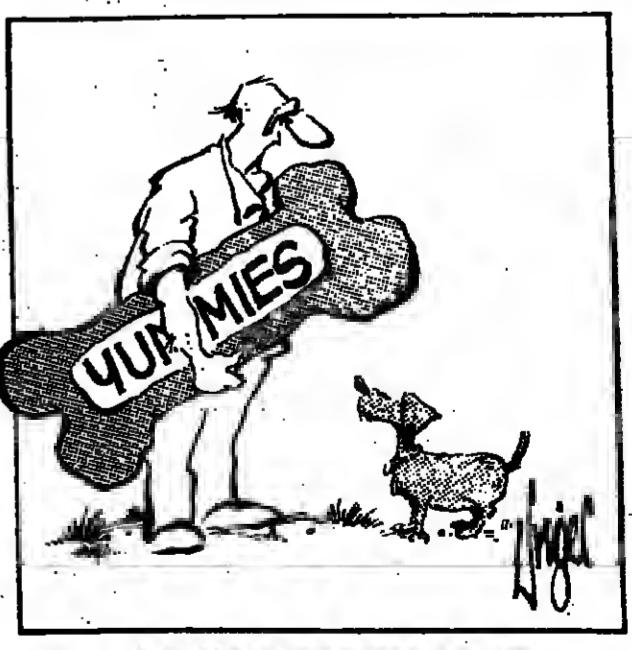


Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



"Here's your supper. I've waxed the floor."



"I gotta leave you on your own for a few weeks."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RATHER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ A 3 9 5 3 2

♥ A 5 2

♦ K 7 3

♣ 6

WEST

♦ Q 7 6

♥ K 8 4

♦ J 10 8 6 4 3

♣ Q 9 8 6

♦ 4 2

♣ 10 8 5 3

♦ A 7

SOUTH

♦ 10

♥ K 9 7

♦ A 10 5

♣ K Q J 9 4 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♡ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Before committing yourself to a plan of action, count your tricks!

This hand from a team match shows how important that can be.

At both tables, North-South

reached three no trump on identical auctions.

North's two-spade rebid in this sequence suggested a six-card

suit, so there was no reason for him

to correct to four spades.

At both tables the lead was the

queen of diamonds, taken by the king. Both declarers led a club from dummy at trick two and both Easts followed with the seven. At one table, South's jack won and the continuation of the king lost to the ace. East reverted to a diamond, declarer tried the ten and West took the jack and cleared the suit. When the ten of clubs failed to drop, declarer ended up with only eight tricks.

At the other table, declarer paused to take stock. With five fast tricks he needed only four from clubs for his contract. Since West could not profitably continue to attack diamonds, declarer found a line of play that guaranteed his contract as long as clubs were no worse than 4-2.

Here, too, declarer led a club at trick two, but to the nine! West took the ten and, since a diamond continuation would do no good, tried switching to a spade. But declarer was in control. Dummy's ace of spades won (to play low could nullify the gain achieved by the excellent play in clubs), and a heart to the king provided the entry to drive out the ace of clubs. The best the defenders could muster was two tricks in each black suit.



"Someone stole his elevator shoes."

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Brazil's cult market thrives

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP): In Ricardo Conceicao Lima's store, dried bat wings are a big seller. So are devil statues, baby snakes and deer antler shavings. Lately there's been a run on mystical African incense, said to attract wealth.

Lima's spirit-cult supply store, tucked away in the corner of a musty indoor market in Rio's poor northern zone, has a steady and loyal clientele.

While many retailers are struggling to stay afloat amid 1,765 per cent inflation and soaring interest rates, Lima says business is good and getting better.

"Since March our sales have jumped 50 per cent," he said. "The toughest times get, the better I do."

Lima is one of thousands of merchants who cater to Brazil's legions of spirit-cult worshippers.

An estimated 90 million of the nation's 150 million people follow African voodoo-style cults, generally lumped together under the term Macumba and descended from Yoruba and Bantu religions practiced by slaves.

Over the centuries the cults freely borrowed elements of Roman Catholicism, native Indian faiths and European witchcraft. They are now uniquely Brazilian, and have spread among all races and classes.

"Brazilians have lost faith in their leaders and are turning to spiritual means of solving their problems. Artists, businessmen, politicians — everyone has a hand in it," said Paulo Coelho, a magician and author of several books on magic.

Most cult-artikel buyers are the poor who inhabit urban shantytown slums, jumbles of shacks lining dirt tracks with no plumbing or running water.

But a growing number of customers are middle- and upper-class Brazilians seeking help for emotional or financial troubles: businessmen worried by inflation, women upset when their grown children leave home, unemployed college graduates frustrated with a shrinking job market.

At the heart of this phenomenon is the belief that many illnesses, economic headaches and romantic setbacks have a spiritual origin — and the same goes for good luck.

"I used to be just a manicurist," said Sonia de Oliveira, a 46-year-old Rio housewife. "But when I became a believer, my whole life improved. Now I have a car, a house and I don't have to work for anyone."

About 85 per cent of Brazilians profess to be Roman Catholics. But many see no conflict in spirit-cult belief as well.

To tap the market, some merchants have switched from peddling household wares and clothes to hawking cult articles. Manuel Figueiras Pontes gave up his fish stand to open a voodoo shop three years ago.

"I knew a lot of people would rather practice Macumba than eat," he said. "So I switched. I'm not sorry I did."

For the voodoo bargain bunter, the market in Madureira district, on Rio's north zone, is the place to shop. Some 37 of 350 shops in this winding, shadowy market feature black magic items. All the visitors need is a fat wallet and a strong stomach.

Outside the Oxala Tecidos shop, a life-sized mannequin representing the spirit deity Exu is clad in a black top hat, boots and velvet cloak, holding a trident stand.

Africans believed Exu was the principle of change, movement and fertility. But under the influence of Roman Catholicism, Exu in

Brazil became a devil.

This particular Exu is called Marabu, an entity said to bring financial success. His cap costs \$30. The boots are \$145, the trident \$45.

At the nearby Odo-Ya voodoo shop, toads used to cast evil spells go for \$25. Duck feet cost a mere \$4. Elephant tails, seashell necklaces and dried ears of corn used to ward off evil spirits range from \$1 to \$15. A bar of black tar-like soap to wash away negative fluids goes for \$6.50. It's imported from Africa.

Short on cash? No problem. Proprietor Antonio Heleno accepts all major credit cards.

Heleno takes special pride in a collection of dull brown rocks sitting in ceramic bowls of water on the floor. Their magical properties are protected in blessed water, he explained. This week he's running a special sale — \$3 per rock.

Next door, animals are sold for sacrificial rituals, a controversial but widely tolerated practice.

The chickens' head, feet, wings and tail, said to hold the "axe" (ah-shesh) or magical force, are cut off in an age-old African ritual. Goats, stabbed in the neck during rituals, sell for \$3 a kilo.

Some object to the cult worship, especially sacrifices, but moved to ban such practices have not worked.

Last July, Rio councilman Wilson Leite Passos called for a law prohibiting animal sacrifice. Some 280 cult leaders clad in white lace, turbans and glass-bead and tooth necklaces gathered on the steps of city hall and threatened to cast a spell over each councilman.

The bill was quietly withdrawn.



Didn't I tell you it would be a hit!

Film superstar Sridevi and Rishi Kapoor shown in action shot of the film 'Chandni'. A romantic story with a soothing effect, devoted love and emotions.

Songs based on folk-lore tunes and silhouette camera — work a piece of art amid a mad crowd of pop and brak — dance movies.

The success of 'Chandni' has once again proved that Hindi movie — goers still have a taste for romance — oriented films that stir waves of nostalgic feelings — a blend of sweet sadness

Hindi film's '89: a disappointing lot

Finding a good quality movie is like finding a needle in the haystack

By Firoze Rangoonwala

WHAT does the Hindi cinema have to show for the year that just went by? Quantity-wise there were about 140 films, some of them certified but not yet released, or due for screening at the turn of the year. Some dubbed films may be kept out of the reckoning. Yet, out of the bulk, what are the films that stand out for remarkable quality or high box-office returns or at least some satisfactory entertainment?

Providing an answer is like searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack. Talking of big-box office hits, irrespective of quality, "Ram Lakhan" and "Tridev" floated up from the deep pool of flops, followed by "Chandni" shining with some surprising success in big cities. That makes it a year of two and a half hits since no other films could not profits comparable to any of these, except "Salaam Bombay" which was a foreign production.

Subhash Ghai's "Ram Lakhan," with Jackie Shroff and Anil Kapoor, Dimple and Madhuri was an old crime drama, brothers on opposite sides of the law, aided by a few unusual twists and catchy songs. Anil's character of a clownish criminal and the hunch of weird villains led by "Sir John" got some popular follow-up. The rich production values and gloss added some visual appeal.

Rajiv Rai's "Tridev" had the same tricks, with two tough (Jackie, Sunny) and one comical (Naseeruddin) guys, plus three sexy heroines and a few bizarre bad men, having their den on an impossible location above a waterfall. The film's fluke card, the "Oye oye" song, became its biggest trump. Whether one considers it an erotic mating call, (the male loud and lusty, the female soft and inviting), or a hearty way of hailing in Punjabi style, or an impulsive mischievous way of shouting or even a sort of chest and throat exercise, "Oye oye" was chanted throughout the length and breadth of the country. So it added tremendously to the

commercial success of a film, that was otherwise badly written.

Yash Chopra's "Chandni" had a very poor and unconvincing story as well as script, with absurdly-built situations. But

If content was lacking, the form and style were made modernistic and chic as in "Parinda" and "Chaalbaaz." Directors Vinod Chopra and Pankaj Parasher tried to show off magic

technique without story is like a tempting whore without a heart. The film which created the year's biggest controversy and censor history was "Pail Parmeshwar." A docile faithful wife and a

th. When released, the men and women both threw it out within two weeks. So much for censor wisdom. Jalal Agha's "Goonj" emerged as tolerable.

1989 saw the shocking specta-

flops. Dharmendra and Jeetendra went on, with only their goodwill to them.

Behind the Screen

As indeed started the Mafia has indeed started dominating the industry and also bulldozing the errant and arrogant stars. Govinda was roughed up and forced to report for the shooting of a film going under a "respectable" title. The puffed up star soon became an obedient boy. So too Aditya. Perhaps to be followed by others like Vinod Khanna. The stars are at last learning that black money is not easy money.

After "Chaalbaaz", it will be "Ghar Ki Mahabharat" presenting yet another version of "Sita Aur Gita", this time in the family drama format. Jay Prada now wants to be one up on Hema Malini and Sri Devi. The docile daughter-in-law will exchange places with the free-loving Amazon and Jaya will have a grand, double-rolled, rollicking

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The producer of "Roti Ki Keema" had ordered several bags of raw wheat, for a scene in which villain Sadashiv Amrapurkar gets buried under the load. After the scene was shot, he divided the wheat among the unit members and asked them to take it home. The workers were happy. The producer was proud that he was giving the worth of "roti" as per his film's title. He became the provider of the bread. But we hope this payment in kind will not mean an end to the rest of the payment which is due to the unit.

Nana Patekar is going bonkers so soon, since his films like "Salaam Bombay" and "Parinda" brought him attention and scribes are featuring him with unusual photos. Nana, also called Anna, has already become a back-seat driver, that is the director behind the director. A step further, he is directing his own film "Frahar", with himself as hero and Dimple as heroine. Has he thought about who will buy the film?

Right: A scene from the movie 'Jaisi Karni Vaise Bharni'

creditably it only banked on romance, music and spectacle, with stars of course, without violence or vulgarity. This was a small mercy in a year when the silver screen and the video screen were splattered with oddities of blood, as well as repulsively crude and sadistic fights, tortures, rapes, burnings, killings or destruction. Only in comparison, "Chandni" had some soothing appeal.

As for quality, it was absolutely invisible. There were a couple of art films: Sayeed Mirza's "Salim Langda Pe Mat Ro," not yet released, has the usual trade-marks of N.F.D.C. sponsored films, with low-paid lack-luster actors, familiar locations, abstract treatment. Nobendu Ghosh's "Trishagni" had a cock and bull story in prehistoric Buddhist era. Its main attractions were a nude shot of young Pallavi Joshi bathing and some passionate kisses, in the midst of sandy boredom. Is it not a shame for N.F.D.C. that the film was sold and released under the title "Hawas Ki Pyas" at theatres notorious for showing soft-porn movies?

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tricks of camera, lighting, speed and editing, making the viewers go squint-eyed and dazed. But dominating husband were considered a big danger to Indian women and banned for 18 months.

Where one could genuinely say "Oh what a fall was there my countrymen" was in the case of three old stars. Amitabh Bachchan's charisma had a severe crash with "Toofan," "Jadugar" and "Main Azaad Hoon," all badly made and meeting a sad fate. Manoj Kumar forfeited his standing with the boorid "Clerk" and "Santosh." Vinod Khanna went berserk with "Mahadev," "Ustaad," "Batwara" and other big flops. Those who worked in joint set-ups, like Mithun, Shatrughan, Raj Babbar, Govinda, Chunky, Rishi Kapoor, Sunjay Dutt managed to come out unscathed from the

deceitful, starry, lavish, formula-packed films sinking without leaving a trace. The most notable (unexpected) flops were "Guru," "Batwara," "Hathyar," "Joshiley," "Nigahen," "Shehzade," "Sacchika Bolba," "Billoo Badshah," "Abhimanyu," "Aakhi Baazi," "Khol De Meri Zuban," "Bee Saa Baad" apart from incredibly bad films like "Bhrashtachar" and "Eelaan-e-Jung" even if they earned some filthy lucre.

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Hestons joint venture

Father acts, son directs

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): It doesn't happen often that a son directs his distinguished father in a movie, but such is the case in the Charlton Heston family.

Precedent was set by the young John Huston, who directed his father Walter to an Oscar for best supporting actor in "The Treasure Of The Sierra Madre" back in 1948.

Now comes Fraser Heston, a successful screenwriter, who tackles his first directorial assignment with the Turner network's production of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic "Treasure Island," to be broadcast Jan. 22.

His father, Academy award-winning actor Charlton Heston, stars in the role of Long John Silver.

The two worked together on the movie "Mother Lode," which Fraser wrote and in which Charlton starred in one of his rare villain roles. They also worked together in the recent cable TV production of "A Man For All Seasons."

Fraser Heston directed and starred in both projects. When he appeared in his own scenes, he turned the directorial reins over to Fraser, allowing his son to get his feet in the tricky craft.

Both Hestons are aware of the hazards of producing new versions of literary and theatrical classics — comparisons are inevitable and seldom flattering.

But father and son are enormously pleased with the reception of "Treasure Island" by critics and preview audiences.

In contrast to the 1935 MGM "Treasure Island," which starred Wallace Beery as Long John and Jackie Cooper as Jim Hawkins, and the 1950 version starring Robert Newton and Bobby Driscoll, the Hestons have turned out a serious drama.

Father and son agree that previous versions made caricatures of the pirates, especially Long John, in going for laughs and a light touch.

"In reality," said Heston the elder, "Stevenson wrote Silver and the rest of the pirates as dangerous cutthroats. There were moments of humour, to be sure, but they were killers and made no bones about it."

Fraser said he went back to the original script.

"I wrote the script from Stevenson's novel," he said. "It made a difference in the final results. Long John has some funny lines, but he's not a laughable figure."

"Rather than remake previous movies, we made the novel. It was a brilliant book, which deserves to be done as a film every 20 or 30 years. Since dad read the book when I was 5 years old, I wanted to do my version."

"I looked at both earlier films and then forgot about them when I wrote the screenplay. The dialogue from the novel is great and almost verbatim in our film."

Heston said the mistake made in earlier "Treasure Island" was in casting Jim Hawkins at 12 years old, "which makes his courage and resourcefulness impossible."

That is, in turn, Fraser had to be as intimidating to the boy. In our picture we don't specify his age, but he's about 15."

Heston and Fraser had just completed "A Man For All Seasons" and were at a meeting with Ted Turner, who asked what we wanted to do next.

"Fraser immediately said, "Treasure Island." Turner told them he had "just the boat" after buying MGM and all its assets, which included the bounty from the 1960 "Mutiny On The Bounty" with Marlon Brando. It is the last wooden square rigger ever built.

Heston said he read the book and looked at the two films again before starting and, "I think we've captured the essence of Stevenson's work."

Fraser said directing his first picture was made far easier by the presence of his father in the leading role.

His father concurred. "I feel very comfortable with Fraser directing," Heston said. "What an actor needs in a director is trust in his taste, intelligence and integrity. Fraser and I have that kind of relationship."

"And he knows my work very well from having spent hours on sets with me on almost all my pictures since he was little boy. He watched me being directed by Orson Welles, George Stevens, William Wyler and Sam Peckinpah. That's a pretty group of fellas."

musician in Europe.

On January 20,

Happy birthday



Variety

O'Toole lays ghosts to rest

Stars as a gentle father in new movie 'Pied Piper'

REFORMED hell-raiser of stage and screen Peter O'Toole has laid a few ghosts of his past to rest by starring as a gentle father in his latest film. And the top actor, who recently won joint custody of his beloved son Lorcan after a bitter love-tug battle with his estranged wife Karen, now says that nothing in life is more important to him than children.

O'Toole, aged 57, plays a kindly English gentleman who rescues a band of children during the war in the Granada film *Pied Piper*.

And the gaunt, grey-haired actor, whose limp blue eyes still have the intensity of the passionate screen hero who stole hearts as Lawrence of Arabia nearly 30 years ago, said: 'I took the part so I could act with children. I can think of nothing more worthy in life than children — they give so much.'

He added: 'Making this film brought back memories of my own childhood in Yorkshire, when I was evacuated to the country to escape the bombing during World War Two. Because all this had such a profound effect on me, I can understand children's anguish.'

O'Toole insists that his reputation as a wild-eyed, flamboyant Irish eccentric is all in his drink-sodden past. Today, he is teetotal and claims that after two failed marriages he steers clear of love affairs.

And the most important thing in his life is seven-year-old Lorcan, whose name is Gaelic for Lawrence after O'Toole's most famous role, and his two grown-up daughters from his first marriage to Sian Phillips, actress Kate and Pat.

And because O'Toole loves children so much, he agreed to star in a film with seven of them, all aged around Lorcan's age. The results is a moving story of an escape from occupied France during World War Two.

It was filmed during a long summer in which O'Toole was separated from Lorcan.

Stan Margulies, executive producer of *Pied Piper*, told me: 'Peter has said many times that when he agreed to do the film with the children was because of his own son.'

'He felt that the film shows that the innocent are always the first victims of war. And the innocents are always best reflected in children.'

He went on: 'Peter also talked quite a bit about his experiences during the Blitz. I suppose in a way, the film was a catharsis for him.'

Filming of *Pied Piper*, which also stars American actress Mare Winningham, may have reawakened painful memories of the Blitz for O'Toole. But his caring approach with his young co-stars, including Alistair Haley, Clare Drummond and David Newmarch-Schmitt, brought the

whole cast closer together. O'Toole said: 'It was exhausting, but fun. Children become totally immersed in their characters. Their sensitivity is very moving. Marlon Brando was right when he said that an actor could learn a lot from watching kids play. Childhood is the most beautiful thing that can exist on this earth.'

'Some of my own childhood memories are hurtful. When I was about eight years old, I remember hearing the bombing and seeing barrage balloons during the war.'

O'Toole, who has starred in more than 30 popular films and was a blue-eyed blonde screen idol during the Sixties and Seventies, went on: 'I haven't kept in touch with the people who looked after me as an evacuee in the Lincolnshire countryside. They seemed to think I was a difficult child — although I didn't think I was.'

After his own childhood experiences, O'Toole seems determined to give the children in his life as much love as possible. And that includes his young co-stars.

One of them, little fair-haired Henrietta Baker, who plays Anna, told me: 'Peter was lovely. He played cricket with us and was not at all grumpy, like the man he plays, Mr Howard.'

O'Toole said: 'I've grown attached to every one of this lot. They're all super little profes-

sionals.' O'Toole, who made his stage debut at the age of 17 and has been nominated for several Oscars, is still close to his daughters. He said: 'Both my daughters keep an eye on me but they have their own lives to lead. They have a wonderful respect and great love that can come only from children.'

'And they even used to give me advice about girlfriends.'

It was this desire for family closeness which made O'Toole desperate to keep his son before the custody case was resolved.

O'Toole and ex-model Karen separated soon after the birth of their son. But O'Toole wanted to keep the son he had craved for so much that he even attempted to snatch Lorcan from his mother in Bermuda. When Karen took legal action to reclaim the boy, an aerrimminius love-tug battle

began.

Once O'Toole refused to hand Lorcan back to his mother in America, after the actor had won permission to bring the boy to England for a holiday.

But the final result of the custody case was that O'Toole keeps Lorcan for most of the year, while his mother has him for school holidays. And during one summer, O'Toole made up for the loss of Lorcan by being a father-type figure in his small fellow actors, the children in *Pied Piper*.

O'Toole has suffered plenty of



Christmas on GRANADA

CORONA

O'Toole cuddles co-stars.



O'Toole with Heringer in a scene from the movie.

A touch of humour, but really serious

By Shaun Seckin

LOOK WHO'S TALKING is a surprisingly funny romantic comedy for a father for her newborn son. Crisp, nicely paced and extremely perceptive, the film successfully merges the lightness of a classic screwball comedy with a rather delicate subject.

Having been made pregnant by her married and thoroughly vile boyfriend Albert (George Segal), the indecisive Mollie (Kirstie Alley) has resolved to get her life in order. No longer interested in choosing men only for their wealth or their looks, Mollie is determined to find the ideal man who will be the perfect husband and father.

For all her proclamations, however, Mollie remains something of a snob, which means she is ignorant of the fact that Mr Right is under her nose. James (John Travolta) is immature and immensely likeable taxi-driver, enters Mollie's life during her frantic ride to the hospital to give birth, and he simply refuses to leave. James and baby Mikey strike up an immediate friendship (the baby is given a 'voice' at the end by a voice-over narration by Bruce Willis), and the two playfully conspire to get Mollie to fall for the earnest and perpetually happy James.

Mollie is by no means a together, fully-in-control woman of the 1990s; in fact, she seems to be totally overwhelmed by the choices and responsibilities dumped upon today's single girl. The film doesn't try to judge her because she has an affair with a married man, nor does it provide her with any easy answers when she decides to get her life together. She is just a fairly typical single American, unprepared when she has to face the consequences of her affair.

Alley shines in the lead, but the real delight is Travolta, who shows that he is capable of being a terrific light comic. His career has bloomed out late but this should take him back to the heights.

When the whales come in a gentle film with a fashionably ecological moral which at best provides an alternative to the diet of animated fare usually fed to the children. The film's strongest asset is its location, set on Bryher, one of the stunning Scilly Isles, in 1914. Veteran British actor Paul Scofield plays the mysterious Birdman who, as a boy, abandoned his native neighbouring island of Samson.

Above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Salim Tel: 5724372, also by Finesse Tower, Farwana and Next Video Salim.

Repentant IRA bomber O'Doherty builds a new life after prison

DUBLIN (Reuters): Shane Paul D'Doherty used to make letter bombs for the IRA. Today he is a student union leader taking an English degree at Dublin's Trinity College.

He wrote apologies to his maimed and mutilated victims, renounced violence and, after 15 years in jail, came out to start a new life.

O'Doherty, now a frenetically energetic 34-year-old eagerly making up for lost time, joined the Irish Republican Army as an idealistic teenager.

Swept away by a romantic idea of a guerrilla group manning the barricades to protect Northern Ireland's Catholic minority, he was steeped in the bloody history of Irish independence.

The impressionable son of a middle class Catholic schoolteacher in Lon-

donderry, he left a letter for posterity under the floorboards of his room, pledging to be an IRA martyr ready to die for Ireland.

'I look back now with horror. I am now very wary of extreme chauvinism and patriotism.'

His disillusionment with that cause is complete. 'I am totally opposed to all violence,' he said in an interview in Trinity's basement coffee room. 'It horrifies me to look back at all those shattered bodies.'

After studying English in prison, he was accepted by Trinity, the famous Dublin University founded in 1951.

'To paramilitaries, I now argue on the productivity level — we can look back on 20 years of violence and see

that it has totally failed. There is also a moral and philosophical argument. I do have basic Christian beliefs. I have been deeply influenced by Quaker doctrines but I do not like labels.'

Almost 3,000 people have died in the past 20 years in the IRA campaign to oust the British from Northern Ireland and in sectarian violence between Catholics and Protestants in the province.

Once the articulate O'Doherty turned his back on violence, a string of British politicians and churchmen fought for years to gain an early release for a man given 30 life terms for his crimes.

Derek Woodward, a former security officer at the Bank of England who lost an eye and a hand after opening one of the letter bombs, has not worked since being maimed.

'I feel so annoyed that Mr O'Doh-

erty comes out, goes to university and carries on a perfectly lovely life... But I have still got to serve my life sentence,' was his reaction to the release.

At Trinity, O'Doherty was elected unopposed to the student union as national question officer with responsibility for organising meeting on political issues.

Getting people in the Irish republic to care passionately about 'The north is a no-no. People just don't want to know.'

O'Doherty, who also works as a freelance journalist and is writing his autobiography, has staged a public debate between himself and Gusty Spence, a Protestant paramilitary leader who served 18 years for killing a

Catholic barman.

He wants to invite Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, to talk at Trinity as well as Gordon Wilson who 'touched the hearts of millions around the world when he prayed to forgive the IRA bombers who killed his daughter in the 1988 Enniskillen war memorial massacre.'

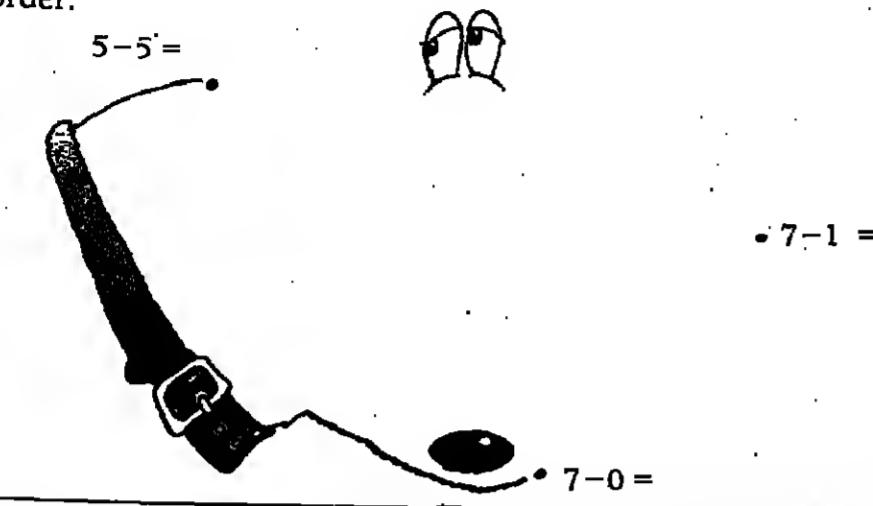
But does O'Doherty ever pause for thought or perhaps suffer a frisson of fear when opening his own mail?

'I am aware that anyone in Ireland, north or south, is a potential target for violence... I am going to die anyway. If I am to die violently, at least I will have worked for peace.'

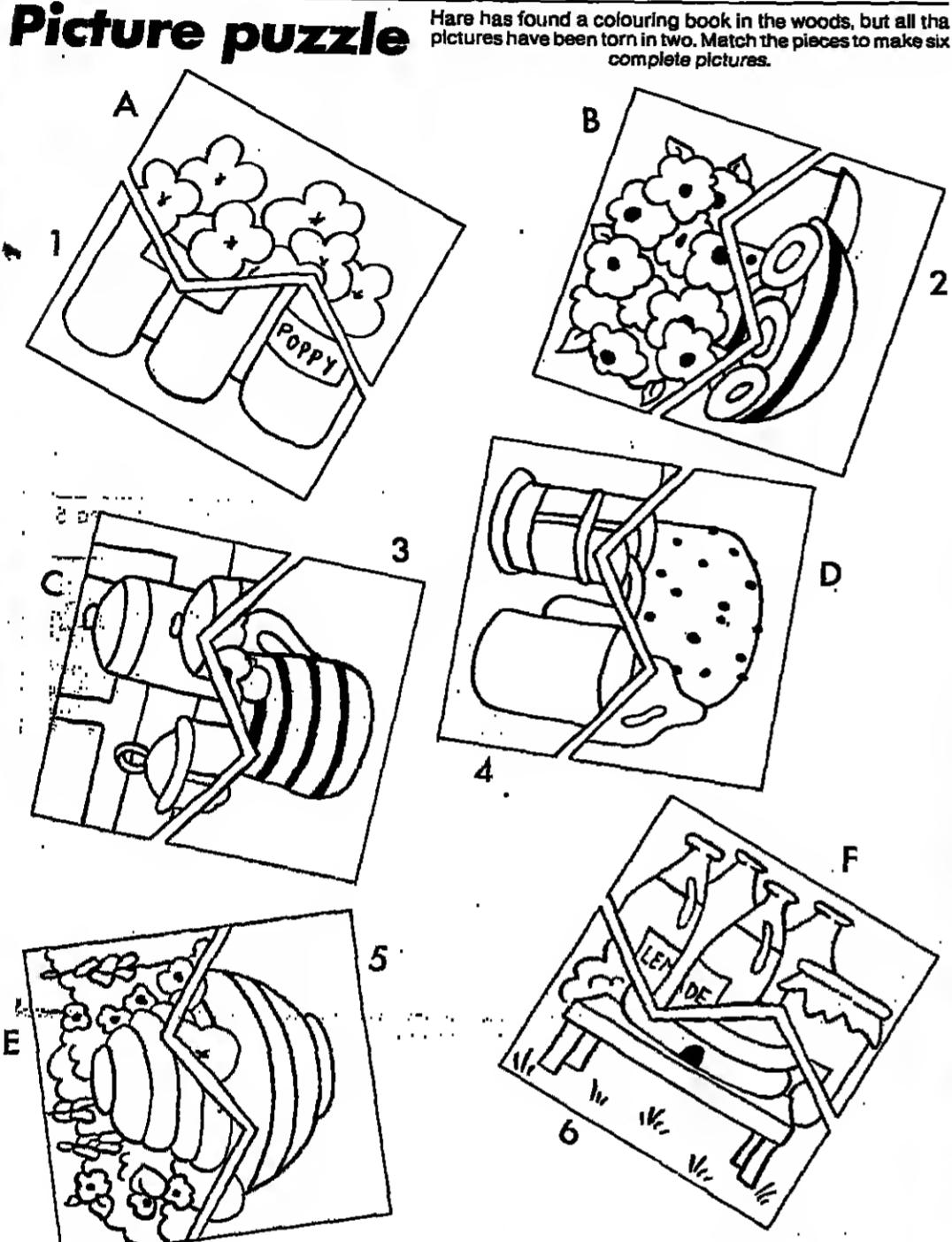
JUNIOR TIMES

Dot-to-dot take aways

Do each take-away.
Then join the dots
in counting order.



Picture puzzle



The Goops again



EVERYBODY liked Ezekiel.

Why?

You could scarcely find his equal.

Why?

If he made a mistake,

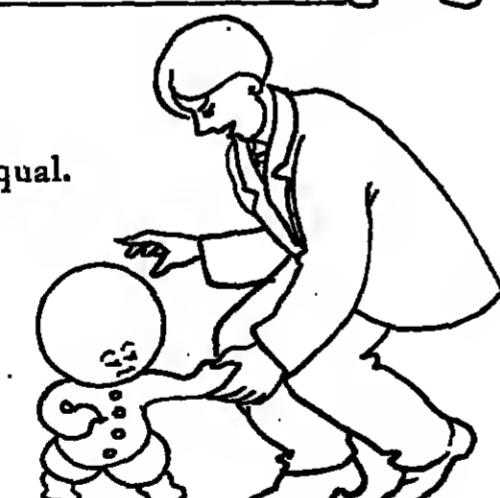
He said he was wrong;

If he went on an errand,

He was n't gone long;

He never would bully,

Although he was strong!



Everybody hated Mello.

Why?

He was such a surly fellow.

Why?

If you asked him for candy,

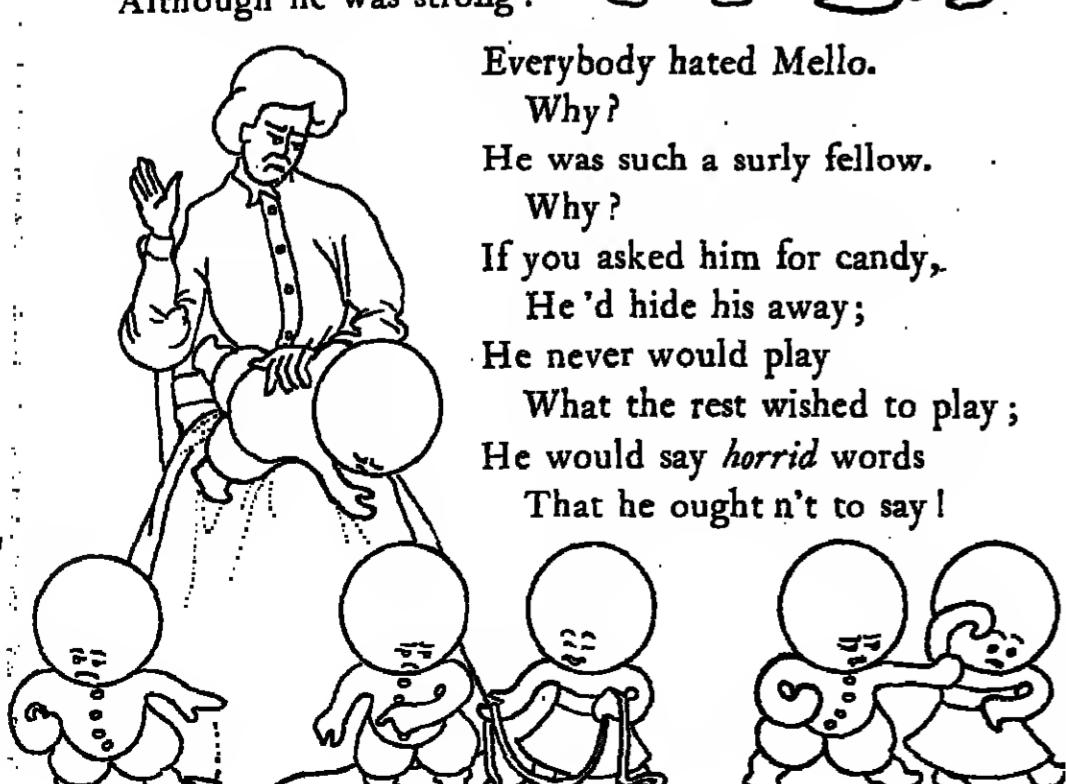
He 'd hide his away;

He never would play

What the rest wished to play;

He would say horrid words

That he ought n't to say!



7-6 = 7-3 =
5-3 = 6-3 =
6-1 =
7-1 =
5-5 =
7-0 =

Word search
PINS 'N NEEDLES

BADGE
BODKIN
BROOCH
CREWEL
CROCHET
DARNING
EMBROIDERY
FIBULA
FRATERNITY
KNITTING
NEEDLE

SCHOOL pin
SEWING machine
SHOEMAKERS
SORORITY
STICK PIN
STRAW
STUD
STYLUS
TACKING
TIE PIN
UPHOLSTERING

H V C S R E K A M E O H S
M H F R C N I K D O B U O
Y C B G E D D U T S P Y R
R N R I N W C S J H T T O
E S O O H I E C O I S A R
D T O J C W N L N G C C I
I I C F I H S R N E H K T
O C H N S T E I A G O I Y
R K G V E T P T I D O N S
B P J R A E Y H B A L G T
M I J R I H D L N B G S R
E N F T J B A L U B I F A
G N I T T I N K E S C N W

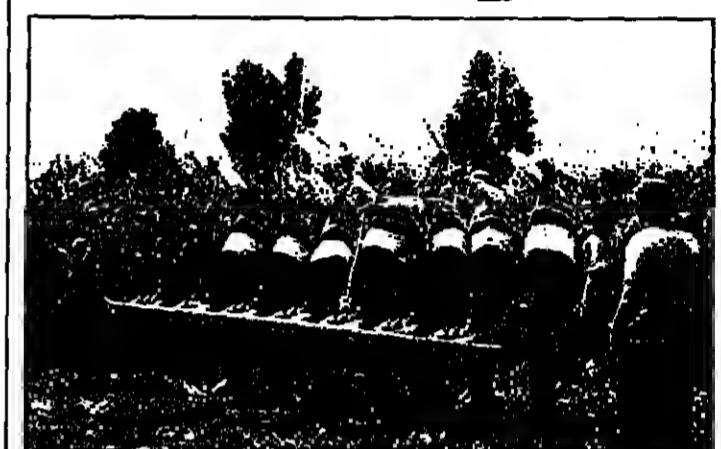


To Julie Hodgson, a friend of ours,
Together we have spent some happy hours.
Your birthday is Sunday, we wish you luck,
We'll see you at seven at the SAS Peacock!

Happy birthday from all Junior Times readers
and Arab Times staff.

Amazing facts

About Sport



Seven men on a single pair of skis — but no snow in sight!

The ball game called 'pelota', popular in parts of Spain, has a long history. It was invented in Italy, and played in France as early as the 13th century. A French king, Louis X, collapsed and died after playing longue-paume, a tennis-like version of pelota, in 1316. The modern game is said to be the world's fastest ball game, the ball reaching speeds as high as 300 km/h (190 mph).

During the reign of Edward III of England, the following games were banned, because of their association with gambling: football, stone-throwing, wood-throwing and iron-throwing, cam-bucam (a kind of golf), quoits, handball, and club-ball.

Lacrosse was first played by the North Americans Indians, who gave the game the name baggataway.

At Isfahan in Iran, there are the remains of an ancient polo ground dating from over 2000 years ago.

Boris Becker, the German who became both the youngest-ever and the first unseeded tennis player to win the Wimbledon men's singles tennis competition in 1985, was several months younger than the junior champion at Wimbledon that year!

William Herbert Grace, doctor and cricketer, made 54,904 runs (including 126 centuries), took 2,876 wickets, and made 877 catches in his career. But perhaps the most remarkable cricketing record is Sri Donald Bradman's average Test-match score of 99.94. Except for an uncharacteristically low score in his final innings, his average would have exceeded 100.

In 1972 in Utah, USA, a man called Allan Abbott managed to reach 222 km/h (139 mph) on a specially-designed pedal cycle. The fastest average speed achieved in orthodox cycling is 49.4 km/h (30 mph) over a period of an hour, by the Belgian Eddy Merckx in Mexico City in 1972.

In 1950, just under 200,000 people saw the soccer match played between Brazil and Uruguay at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The biggest sports crowd is probably the ten million or so people who turn out to see various stages of the Tour de France cycle race every summer.

In 1922, a British firm invented a golf ball equipped with a tiny parachute — a device which slowed the ball down, and enabled beginners to practice at home without endangering their neighbours.

At about 5 hectares (12.4 acres) in area, a polo field is the largest pitch in sport.

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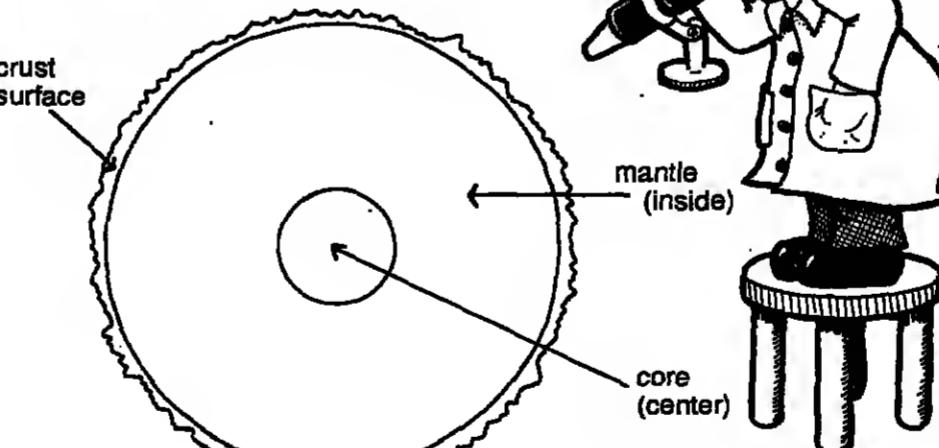
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How Do Scientists Know?

Most scientists think the Earth is made of layers — the crust, the mantle, and the core.

Color the Earth parts in this picture.



But we can't see inside the Earth. So, how do scientists know? Scientists base their ideas on information they collect about the Earth.

Can you tell what is inside a box without looking inside? Check your answer.

Materials Needed: box, object

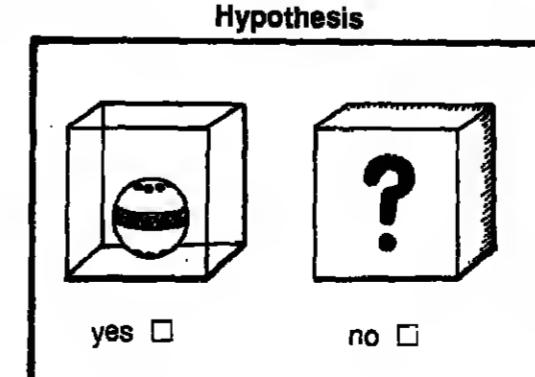
Procedure

1. You will be divided into research teams. Each team prepares a MYSTERY BOX.

2. Each team collects information about the MYSTERY BOXES.

Results and Conclusions

1. How many boxes did you guess? _____ How many? _____
2. Were you right on any boxes? _____
3. What did you learn? _____



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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Horse kicks Walker

HAMILTON: New Zealand, Jan. 17, (Reuter): Former Olympic 1,500 metres champion John Walker pulled out of a Commonwealth Games warm-up meeting today after being kicked on the ankle by a horse.

With a week to go before the Games open in Auckland, New Zealand's former world mile record holder, had been due to race England's Olympic silver medalist Peter Elliott over 1,000 metres at Hamilton's Porritt stadium.

In spite of the lack of competition Elliott set a New Zealand all-comers' record and a personal best with his winning time of two minutes 16.30 seconds.

But the eagerly awaited duel with Walker, 38 next week, failed to materialise after the Auckland man injured his left Achilles tendon.

Meeting organiser Brett Addison said Walker, who trains and breeds horses, had been kicked at a horse sale in Hamilton this morning and decided not to race after a tentative attempt at warming up.

"It is quite painful at the moment but it could be just bruising," said Addison, adding that he did not expect Walker's appearance in the 1,000-1,500 metres at the Games to be in jeopardy. "He is going to see it through."

An injury to the same tendon, after he was spiked at a race in Gateshead, England, kept Walker out of the Seoul Olympics 18 months ago.

Walker said he was confident of competing in the Games. "I should be OK," he said. "I tried to warm up but it was too painful and I could not do anything."

Elliott, paced by local man Peter Elliott, and 500 metres for the first lap, had to battle with strong winds and a strong headwind.

Walker, 38, had the best time in the last lap, but Elliott was best overall.

Belfast two years ago.

"It shows that things are going well for the Games," added the world 800 metres silver medalist, who ran alone after Goodwin dropped out at 500 metres.

Elliott, who beat Walker over 800 metres in Auckland last weekend, will run 1,500 metres — his Games distance — at another meeting in the city on Saturday.

He said he was undaunted by the prospect of racing fellow Englishman Sebastian Coe, the former double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and his big rival for the Commonwealth title.

"The better the competition, the better it will be," he said simply. "It won't mean anything because there are still two weeks until the Games race."

Commonwealth double gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King, the lone Australian in the low-key meeting, was badly beaten in three races, showing she has still to recover fully from an Achilles tendon injury.

After two false starts in the 100 metres she finished sixth, 0.37 of a second behind winner Helen Pirovano of New Zealand. She was third, more than one second behind runner-up Mercy Addy of Ghana, in the 400 metres.

Flintoff-King, Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion and 1986 Commonwealth winner in the same event and the 400 metres, was also well off the pace in a low class 200 metres.

Swaziland will not compete in the Games because of cash problems.

The 31 members of the Games team were to have left for New Zealand yesterday, but when they gathered at the Royal Palace to meet King Mswati they were told to return home.

A government official said there was no money to finance the trip, although some members of the team had paid their own air fares.

Urine samples will be flown business class from Auckland to Sydney for drug testing each morning during the Games amid strict security measures to prevent tampering.

Foreman's value rises as Tyson foe

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. Jan. 17, (Reuter): George Foreman is fat and old for a fighter but his second-round destruction of Gerry Cooney on Monday added several million dollars to his value as a possible Mike Tyson opponent.

What is more, the 41-year-old Foreman promises to hand out the same punishment to the 23-year-old world heavyweight champion.

Tyson, Foreman exclaimed, responding to a question. "I would probably knock him out quicker, because he wouldn't back away like Gerry Cooney."

There appears to be little doubt that Foreman's once impossible dream of getting a chance to win the title a second time had turned into a rich likelihood.

Foreman, who won the title in 1972 from Joe Frazier, said a couple of weeks ago that Tyson's promoter, Don King, had offered him about \$5 million dollars to pass up Cooney and sign to fight Tyson. But Foreman took a chance by fighting boxer, the perennial white hope and his performance pushed his value into two digits, promoter Bob Arum said yesterday.

Arum has a vested interest in adding value to Foreman, but in view of a lack of marketable — or

McEnroe thrashes Austrian

MELBOURNE, Jan. 17, (Reuter): John McEnroe, enjoying his best start to a Grand Slam tournament for many years, today gave his second tennis masterclass in two days to reach the third round of the Australian Open.

Repeating his first round performance, the American number four seed conceded just four games against Alex Antonitsch, driving the Austrian to distraction with a display of touch and vision most players on the circuit can only dream of.

"If I keep playing like this I'll be difficult to beat, I just hope it keeps going," said McEnroe after his 6-1 6-2 6-1 victory on centre court. "It's a great start, I haven't started like this in a Grand Slam for a while."

McEnroe's deft display, which reduced the frustrated Antonitsch to serving underarm for one point in the second set, was in sharp contrast to world number one Ivan Lendl's workmanlike demolition of Tomas Carbonell of Spain.

The Czechoslovak defending champion won 6-4 6-2 6-3 and realises he is somewhere off his best form. "I could always hit the ball better but I suppose as long as you're winning it doesn't matter how you hit the ball."

Steffi Graf, bidding for her third successive Open title, was also below her best against American Erika de Lome, a teenager ranked 298 who achieved the rare distinction of breaking the world number one's serve twice in one set.

Graf, who won 6-1 6-2, blamed who was 6-1 6-2.

Graf, who was 6-1 6-2, blamed Becker for her below par performance following the West German pair's 30-minute practice session last night.

Antonitsch, ranked 98th in the world, was beaten within 13 minutes of the start of his match, finding himself 5-0 down to the expressionless McEnroe.



Lendl (left) reaches for a forehand volley while Graf (centre) signs autographs and Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)



Graf (left) reaches for a forehand volley while Graf (centre) signs autographs and Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)



Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)

Eschewing Lendl's now-familiar legionnaire's hat, McEnroe, sporting a lurid green bandana, even read Antonitsch's underarm serve and won the point to take a 5-2 lead in the second set.

McEnroe's display came as a blessed relief to the sun-blasted spectators on centre court who had earlier sat through nearly four hours of slam-bang tennis between number 13 seed Thomas Muster and Christo van Rensburg of South Africa.

The Austrian, semifinalist last year, eventually won 1-6 7-5 7-5 2-6 6-4. "I don't maybe have the talent but I do my best and try to do my job as good as possible," he said.

Siduity and shade were also in short supply on court two

where 13th seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain was beaten 6-4 6-3 6-4 by Sweden's Mikael Pernfors.

Both players slugged and grunted their way through a stolid diet of baseline topspin before Pernfors, urged on by a large crowd of his sun-bathing compatriots, emerged from a 38-shot rally at matchpoint to reach the third round.

Pernfors will meet Frenchman Henri Leconte, an artist in the McEnroe mould, whose recovery from six months out with a back injury gathered pace with a 6-2 6-3 6-4 defeat of Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia.

Results

Second round results in the Australian Open tennis championships today, the third day of the two-week tournament (prefix number denotes seeding):

Mikael Pernfors (Sweden) beat 13-Thomas

Moser (Austria) beat 6-4 7-5 7-5 6-4 6-6; Flavien (France) beat Eric Winoigradsky (France) 6-4 6-1 6-6; Simon Youl (Australia) beat Brad Drewett 6-4 7-6 (7-3) 6-2; Michael Stich (West Germany) beat 13-Lorenzo Lamas (Argentina) 6-3 6-4 3-0 (revised); Sarah Lockett (Brazil) beat Elena Pampulova (Bulgaria) 6-3 6-3; Nicole Jagerman (Netherlands) beat Kumiko Okamoto (Japan) 6-1 6-2; Henri Leconte (France) beat Peter Korda (Czechoslovakia) 6-3 6-4 6-3 6-4; Michael Stich (West Germany) beat 13-Raffaela Reggi (Italy) 6-3 6-2; 13-Raffaela Reggi (Italy) beat 13-Dunc (Brazil) 6-4 6-4; Peter French (USA) beat 13-Alex Keler (USA) 6-4 6-4; Leisa Miechi (Soviet Union) beat Cecilia Dahlman (Sweden) 2-6 6-1 6-3; 9-Andrea Gomez (Ecuador) beat Bruno Oresar (Yugoslavia) 6-4 3-6 3-2; 11-Paul Shriver (USA) beat Nicolo Provis (Australia) 6-2 6-2; 16-Barbara Paulus (Australia) 6-2 6-2; 1-Steffi Graf (West Germany) beat Erika de Lome (USA) 6-1 6-2; 13-Anke Huber (West Germany) beat 13-Eric Burden (USA) 6-2 6-2; 12-Thomas Muster (Austria) 6-2 6-4; 13-Thomas Muster (Austria) 6-2 6-4; 13-Kimiko Date (Japan) beat Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) 7-5 7-6 (7-5); 13-Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat Thomas Carbonell (Spain) 6-4 6-2 6-3; 15-Thomas

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SHOWJUMPING

Kuwaitis wait for success

DUBAI: Kuwaiti riders were kept waiting for success on the opening day of the Dubai Horse Show yesterday while the UAE enjoyed an immediate hat-trick of victories.

First to strike for the host country was Bakheet Suhaib who won the Eileen Aigner Opening Stakes on Charm.

With eight horses out of 37 starters surviving the first part of the competition, Suhaib and Charm produced the only clear round of the jump-off to a time of 47.37 secs at the Dubai Metropolitan Hotel show-ground.

Adel Ahmed was faster on Dubai Equestrian Centre's Oliver, but they had three faults in a time of 46.90 secs. The best time of all came from Yousef Saleh on his own horse Sinbad, who had one fence down for four faults in 37.17 secs.

With Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, among the main sponsors and the official carrier for the show, another home success followed when Annisa Bujasaim on Dubai Equestrian Club's Tia Maria produced a clear round in 30.72 secs in the Juniors and Children's Intermediate Open.

Narrowly beaten into second place after another immaculate round in 30.97 secs was Aweena Daswani on Dubai Surprise, while Umm Al Quwain's Eve Fraser on Hakim went clear in 31.51 secs to finish third.

With a massive entry of 88 for the Dubai Television Stakes, in which three seconds were added for each fence down, Joanna Hancock steered Dubai Equestrian Centre's Minnie the Minx to victory in 40.91 seconds.

Second for Kuwait with a time of 41.27 secs on Hot Gossip was Nader Ibrahim, while Ahmad Sharida took third place in 43.12 secs on Lys Du Conte, owned by Sheikh Ahmad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain, and the horse Sharida rode to victory in the Grand Prix in the climax to last year's show.

Among the other challengers from around the Gulf later aiming to make their mark in last night's Khaledi Times Stakes were Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohamed Al Saud, a member of the five-rider Public Security team from Riyadh, and Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant Rakad Al Dhafraen, a three-times winner in Dubai last year.

France play Qadsiya today

THE French national soccer team arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a nine-day tour, during which they will play three matches.

France plays the first of its friendlies this evening against Qadsiya Club at the Kazma Club at 4.30 pm. The next game will pit the visitors against Kuwait on Sunday, Jan 21, at 5.30 pm and on Wednesday, Jan 24, they meet East Germany. The last two games will also be held at the Kazma stadium.

French team manager Michel Platini said that the tour would help towards building a team for the 1992 European Championship and the 1994 World Cup. He also thanked Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, for arranging this tour.

Platini added that France had chosen Kuwait as a training site due to the excellent facilities provided to them by the KFA.

He said the coming match will also give a chance to the French and Kuwait teams to prepare for the coming championships.

France has not been able to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in Italy. They started their Cup qualifiers badly, losing most of their matches. They rallied towards the end, heating Scotland 3-0 but paid the penalty for a draw in one of their earlier matches.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Sheikh Talal Khaled Al Ahmad, the deputy chairman of the KFA.

A surprise member of the French team is striker Jean-

Pletini (2nd right) with Shaikh Talal Al Khaled Al Ahmed

Kuwait is hosting the Gulf Soccer Championship next month.

A very large press and information delegation, 35 members, has also come along with the team to Kuwait. Platini said this visit was also important for the

French media.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Sheikh Talal Khaled Al Ahmad, the deputy chairman of the KFA.

A surprise member of the French team is striker Jean-

Pierre Papin. Papin was in hospital and the whole squad was surprised when he arrived at airport to accompany the team to Kuwait.

Papin, who was still on crutches at the Kuwait airport, is not

expected to take part in this evening's match. He has had a very successful season so far with Marseille.

Platini, who visited Kuwait a number of times at the invitation of Kuwait, praised the standard of the Kuwaiti team.

Platini was a member of the French team which beat Kuwait 4-1 in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. During his reign as captain, France was rated among the best in the world and also reached the semifinals of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. They last their semifinal to West Germany.

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This trip to Kuwait is a happy one for Tahiti-born Pascal Vahirua, who will be making his debut for the French team. He is the first Tahiti born player to play for France.

Italy extend Cup manager's contract

Maradona raps reporter

ROME, Jan 17, (Reuters): World Cup hosts Italy have decided to extend national team manager Azeglio Vicini's contract until 1992 in a show of confidence before next June's finals, Italian Soccer Federation officials said today.

They said the contract, which would take Vicini through to the European championships in Sweden, was expected to be signed by early February.

Vicini, who took over from Ezio Bearzot after Italy's poor performance in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, said he was delighted with the agreement. His current contract is due to expire in August.

"If it goes through to signing, as I hope, I can only be satisfied because it is a signal of confidence and esteem," he said.

Temperamental Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona threatened to make an angry confrontation at a television station.

"You should be ashamed of yourself, if you know what shame means...

"I'll make you eat this newspaper," Maradona told Naples journalist Giuseppe Pacileo, according to staff at the private television station.

Pacileo, from the Naples Daily Mattino, had given Maradona a measly 3.5 out of ten for his performance in last Sunday's League match against Udinese.

Maradona, who was due to make a broadcast with Pacileo on Monday, first brandished a copy of the Mattino then threw it at him.

"Maradona didn't lay hands on me, he just rested two fingers on my chin and I flicked them off," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport.

In Sunday's match, League leaders Napoli were 2-0 down to their little fancied opposition with just three minutes remaining when Maradona scored from the penalty spot and then set up an equaliser in injury time.

Southampton beat Swindon

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Southampton recovered from 2-0 down at half-time to crush Second-Division Swindon 4-2 after extra time and reach the last eight of the English Soccer League Cup tomorrow.

Paul Rideout rescued the First Division high-flyers with an equaliser five minutes from time after Swindon had looked set to become only the second club to win at Southampton this season.

Swindon took command of the fourth-round replay when Alan McLoughlin scored with a splendid solo effort in the 33rd minute and Steve White added a second three minutes later.

Welsh international Barry Horne reduced the deficit, two minutes into the second half but Southampton, fourth in the First

Division, had to wait until the 25th for striker Rideout to hit the equaliser from close range.

Matthew Le Tissier curled home a free kick to put the hosts 3-2 ahead in the first minute of additional time before Rodney Wallace completed the victory with his 16th goal of the season as the visitors' hold challenge faded.

Results

English Football League Cup fourth round replay		
Southampton	4	Swindon
(After extra time, score after 90 minutes 2-2)		2
Southampton play Oldham in quarter-final		
Oldham	4	Southampton
(After extra time, score after 90 minutes 2-2)		2
Southampton play Derby in quarter-final		
Derby	0	Grimsby
(After extra time, score after 90 minutes 2-2)		0
Scottish Division One		
Hamilton v Airdronians — postponed		
Scottish Division Two		
Berwick	3	Stranraer
(Postponed: Dumbarston v East Fife)		

Hadlee to miss first Test

WELLINGTON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Fast bowler Richard Hadlee will not be fit for the first cricket Test against India beginning on February 2, the chairman of selectors for the New Zealand team, Don Neely, said today.

Despite making good progress in the past two weeks from an operation in December on his Achilles tendon, Hadlee needed some first class cricket to reach Test match fitness, Neely said.

"He won't be fit for the first Test, he has to play in some games," Neely said in a telephone interview.

The holder of the record number of Test wickets declined an invitation to play in the New Zealand Cricket Council President's XI four-day match against India beginning on Monday.

"He thought it was just a little bit early for that," Neely said. "He was dubious Hadlee would even be fit for the second Test starting on February 9."

"You would be asking him to come from being a walking stick-type person two weeks ago to playing a leading role in a Test match — he has to have some games under his belt first."

Hadlee, 38, broke down just before New Zealand's short tour to Australia in November during which he had hoped to pick up the four wickets he needed to be the first man to get 400.

He also broke down during both the last home Test series against Pakistan and England.

The selectors named a youthful President's side to meet India in the first match in New Plymouth. Nine of the 12 players named yesterday are under 25 and 20-year-old left-arm spinner Mark Richardson will make his first-class debut.

Among the young talent with immediate Test prospects are Trevor Franklin, Ken Rutherford and pace bowlers Jonathon Millnow and Shane Thomson.

India arrive on Friday.

The team is: Trevor Franklin, Kyle Wealeans, Ken Rutherford, Mark Douglas, Gavin Larsen, Shane Thomson, Adam Parore, Grant Bradburn, Martin Snedden (captain), Mark Richardson, Jonathan Millnow. The 12th man will be Paul Unwin.

Sri Lankans out for 234

BENDIGO, Australia, Jan 17, (Reuters): The touring Sri Lankan cricketers failed to build on a promising start and were dismissed for 234 by an Australian Country XI on the first day of their three-day match today.

At the Close, the Australian country side, who lost to the Sri Lankans by 14 runs in 1988, were 15 without loss in reply.

The touring side began well with openers Dhammika Ranatunga and Athula Samarakera putting on 80 in even time before they were out for 32 and 51 respectively for the addition of just eight runs.

The Australians gradually took command to the second session, claiming three wickets for 92 runs including the prize scalp of skipper Arjuna Ranatunga for 38.

Paceman Eugene Nix from the Australian Capital Territory was the pick of the bowlers, taking four for 62.

Italian soccer

ROME, Jan 17, (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today.

RESULTS of the Mezzalana Ladies Bridge

RESULTS of the Regency Ladies Bridge

RESULTS of the Mezzalana Ladies Bridge

RESULTS of the Regency Ladies Bridge